THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI

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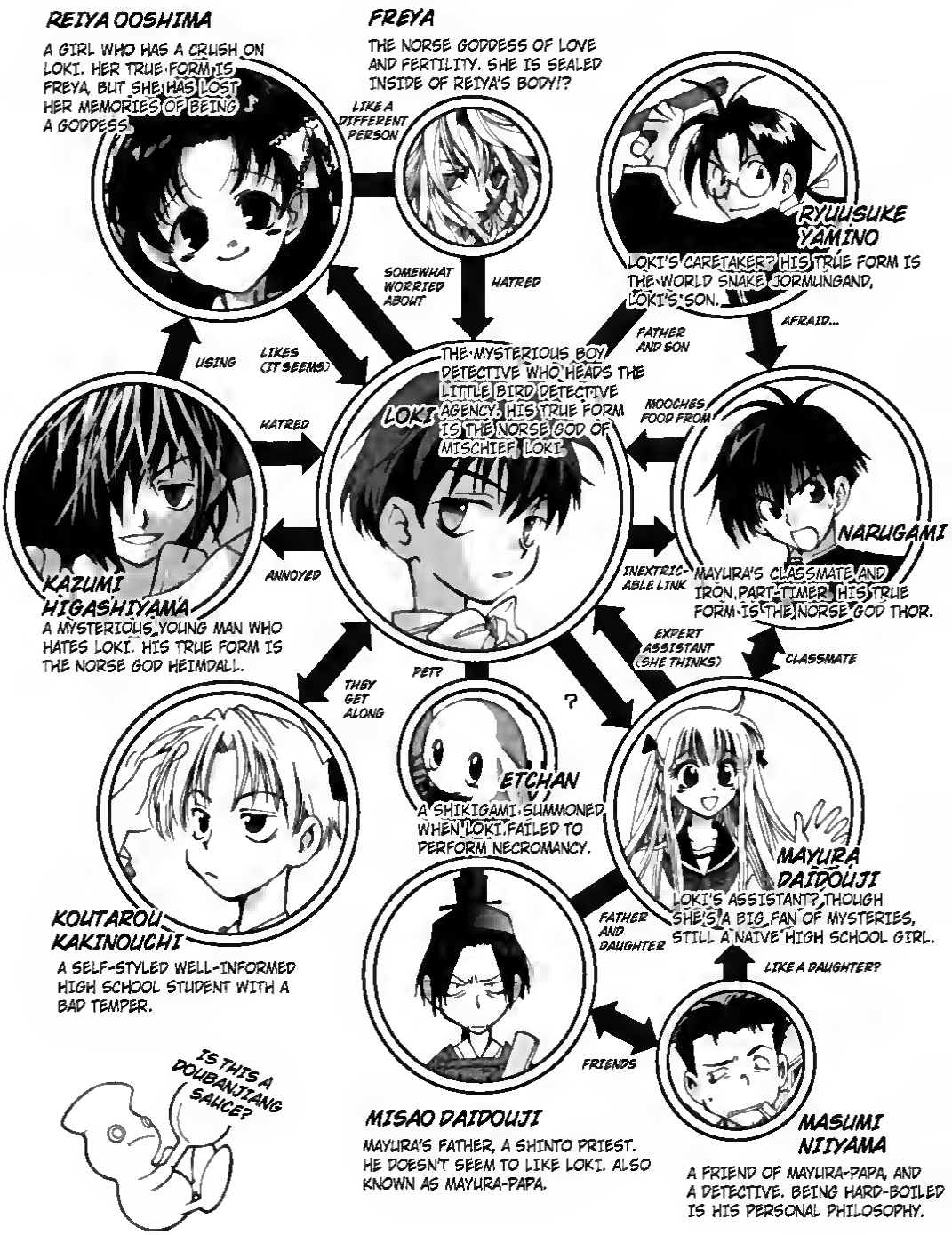
THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI

4

KINOSHITA SAKURA

THE MYSTICAL DETECTIVE LOKI CHARACTER RELATIONSHIP MAP


REIYA OOSHIMA
A GIRL WHO HAS A CRUSH ON LOKI. HER TRUE FORM IS FREYA, BUT SHE HAS LOST HER MEMORIES OF BEING A GODDESS.
FREYA
THE NORSE GODDESS OF LOVE AND FERTILITY. SHE IS SEALED INSIDE OF REIYA'S BODY!?
LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON
SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT
HATRED
RYUUSUKE YAMINO
LOKI'S CARETAKER? HIS TRUE FORM IS THE WORLD SNAKE JORMUNGAND, LOKI'S SON.
AFRAID...
FATHER AND SON
USING
LIKES (IT SEEMS)
THE MYSTERIOUS BOY DETECTIVE WHO HEADS THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY. HIS TRUE FORM IS THE NORSE GOD OF MISCHIEF, LOKI
LOKI
HATRED
MOOCHES FOOD FROM
NARUGAMI
MAYURA'S CLASSMATE AND IRON PART-TIMER. HIS TRUE FORM IS THE NORSE GOD THOR.
INEXTRICABLE LINK
ANNOYED
KAZUMI HIGASHIYAMA
A MYSTERIOUS YOUNG MAN WHO HATES LOKI. HIS TRUE FORM IS THE NORSE GOD HEIMDALL.
EXPERT ASSISTANT (SHE THINKS)
CLASSMATE
THEY GET ALONG
PET?
?
ETCHAN
A SHIKIGAMI SUMMONED WHEN LOKI FAILED TO PERFORM NECROMANCY.
MAYURA DAIDOUJI
LOKI'S ASSISTANT? THOUGH SHE'S A BIG FAN OF MYSTERIES, STILL A NAIVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.
KOUTAROU KAKINOUCHI
A SELF-STYLED WELL-INFORMED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH A BAD TEMPER.
FATHER AND DAUGHTER
LIKE A DAUGHTER?
FRIENDS
IS THIS A DOUBANJIANG SAUCE?
MISAO DAIDOUJI
MAYURA'S FATHER, A SHINTO PRIEST. HE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE LOKI. ALSO KNOWN AS MAYURA-PAPA.
MASUMI NIIYAMA
A FRIEND OF MAYURA-PAPA, AND A DETECTIVE. BEING HARD-BOILED IS HIS PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY.

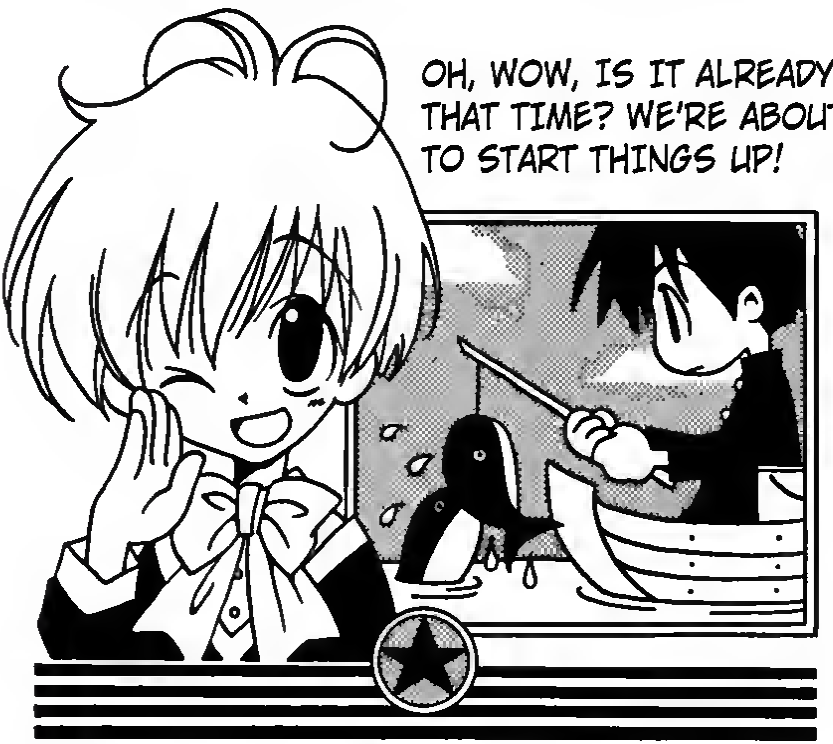
~THE LONG SUMMARY OF LOKI UP TIL NOW~

HEY THERE! THIS IS VOLUME 4 OF "MYSTICAL DETECTIVE LOKI." NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HOW ARE YOU DOING? I'M DOING PRETTY WELL TODAY! YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ALL THE AMAZING THINGS I'VE BEEN DOING LATELY! OKAY!! (CHEERFULLY)

THOUGH RIGHT NOW I'M THE HEAD DETECTIVE AT LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY, I'M NOT A NORMAL DETECTIVE. BEING AS HUMANS ARE SUCH WEAK BEINGS, IT IS EASY FOR EVIL BEING TO POSESS THEM. SO I DO THEM THE FAVOR OF REMOVING THE EVIL FROM THEM.
TO BE HONEST, MY TRUE FORM IS THE NORSE GOD LOKI, YOU SEE. A LOT WENT DOWN IN THE GODS' REALM, AND FINALLY THE HIGH LORD BANISHED ME TO THE HUMAN REALM AND TOLD ME "REMOVE THE EVIL FROM THE HUMANS WHO ARE POSSESSED BY IT!" SO WITH YAMINO-KUN AND A MYSTERY-FAN OF A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL NAMED MAYURA, I WORK AS A MYSTICAL DETECTIVE. YOU GET IT?

FOR SOME REASON, ANOTHER NORSE GOD, THOR, HAS COME TO THE HUMAN REALM, AND IS CALLING HIMSELF NARUKAMI-KUN. HE SEEMS TO BE ACTING KIND OF WEIRD, THOUGH. WELL, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A SIMPLE GUY, EVEN IN THE GODS' REALM, SO HE PROBABLY HAS NO GOOD REASON.

THE THING I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IS THE NORSE GODDESS FREYA, WHO HAS RECENTLY COME TO THIS REALM. HOWEVER, SHE'S SEALED IN THE PERSONALITY OF A GIRL NAMED REIYA OOSHIMA, IT SEEMS, BUT RECENTLY WHEN FREYA ACTUALLY MANIFESTED IN HER FULL FORM AS THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND FERTILITY, SHE TRIED TO KILL ME! HAVE I SOMEHOW MADE AN ENEMY OF HER.....?



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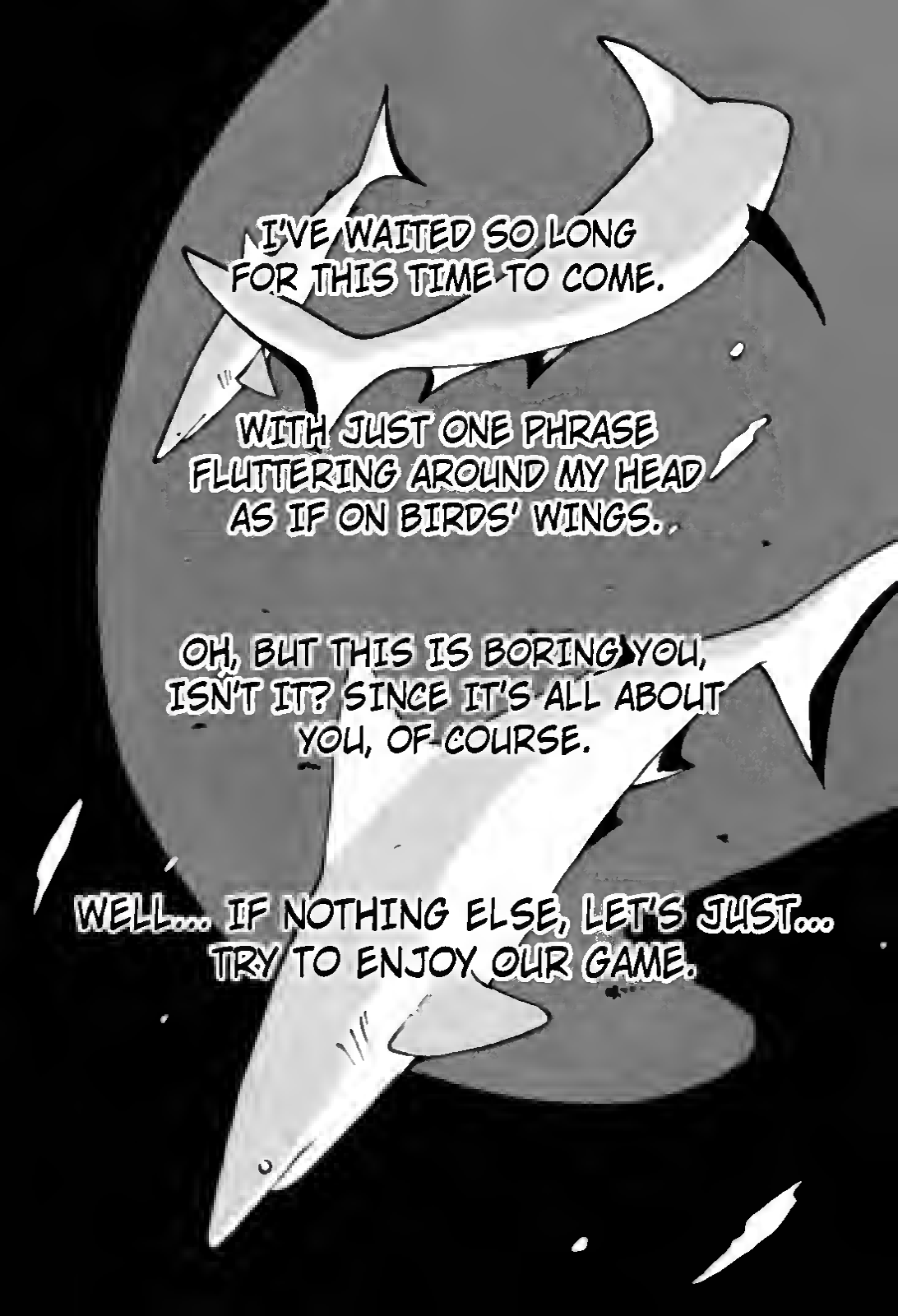
THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI 4TH

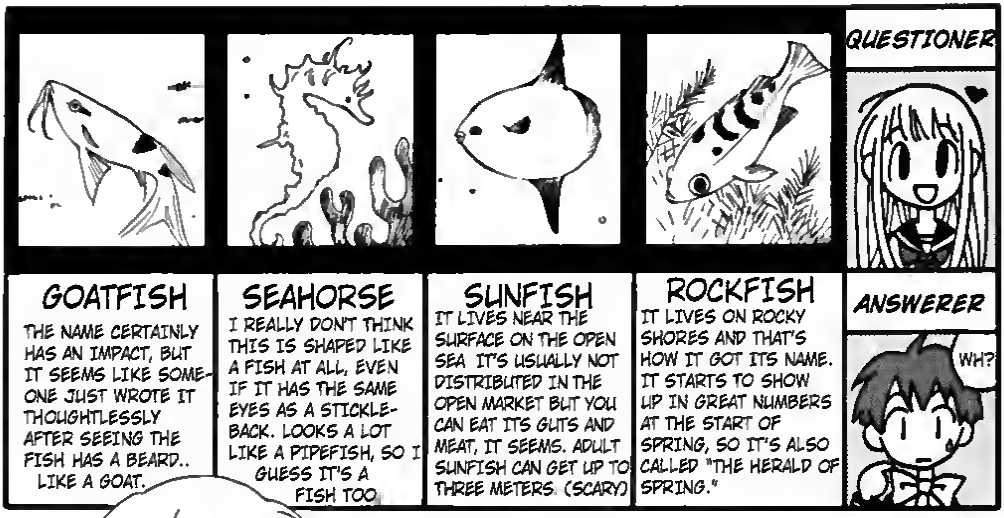
NIGHT 15
AQUARIUM


I'VE WAITED SO LONG
FOR THIS TIME TO COME.
WITH JUST ONE PHRASE
FLUTTERING AROUND MY HEAD
AS IF ON BIRDS' WINGS.
OH, BUT THIS IS BORING YOU,
ISN'T IT? SINCE IT'S ALL ABOUT
YOU, OF COURSE.
WELL... IF NOTHING ELSE, LET'S JUST...
TRY TO ENJOY OUR GAME.

HEYYY
ANYBODY NEED SOME COUPLE'S PASSES TO THE AQUARIUM..!?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU FOR 1200 YEN!
HAVE A HEART TO HEART WITH YOUR BELOVED AT THE AQUARIUM! GET NICE AND COZY!!
HEY THERE! NARUGAMI! QUIT TRYING TO SELL THINGS AT SCHOOL!!
TEACHER
HEREEE! TAKE 'EM! ONLY 800 YEN!!
BONK
WAAHH!
WOW, LAME! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY TICKETS FOR, LIKE, DISNEY-LAND OR SOME-THING?
HOW ABOUT 1000 YEN...
NAH, WE DON'T NEED IT, THANKS!
ALREADY LOVEY-DOVEY

I FEEL SUPER AWKWARD ABOUT IT...
I DON'T WANNA GO OVER TO LOKI'S PLACE AND LEECH OFF HIM AGAIN.
I'LL BUY THOSE TICKETS !!
A MAN'S BROAD BACK
AW... I CAN'T GET RID OF EM... HOW'M I GONNA PAY FOR DINNER TONIGHT...?
WOBBLE
I'M SAVED !!
THANKS FOR YOUR PATRON-AGE !!
SO YOU'RE WORKING AT AN AQUARIUM NOW, NARUGAMI-KUN!
M-MAYURA DAIDOUJI...

WOW!! WHAT A HUGE FISHY!!
WHAT KIND IS IT, LOKI-KUN!?
I WONDER IF IT GETS TIRED, BEING SO BIG AND SWIMMING AROUND IN CIRCLES LIKE THAT!?
IF TUNA DON'T KEEP SWIMMING, THEY JUST DIE, MAYURA.
WHAT!? THAT'S A TUNA!?
1 ROLL OF TUNA
JUST LIKE YOU'D DIE IF YOU WEREN'T MESSING AROUND ALL THE TIME...
WOW... TUNA, HUH?
HEY, HEY LOKI-KUN!! WHICH ONE IS THIS, THEN!?


GOATFISH
THE NAME CERTAINLY HAS AN IMPACT, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE JUST WROTE IT THOUGHTLESSLY AFTER SEEING THE FISH HAS A BEARD.. LIKE A GOAT.
SEAHORSE
I REALLY DON'T THINK THIS IS SHAPED LIKE A FISH AT ALL, EVEN IF IT HAS THE SAME EYES AS A STICKLEBACK. LOOKS A LOT LIKE A PIPEFISH, SO I GUESS IT'S A FISH TOO
SUNFISH
IT LIVES NEAR THE SURFACE ON THE OPEN SEA. IT'S USUALLY NOT DISTRIBUTED IN THE OPEN MARKET BUT YOU CAN EAT ITS GUTS AND MEAT, IT SEEMS. ADULT SUNFISH CAN GET UP TO THREE METERS. (SCARY)
ROCKFISH
IT LIVES ON ROCKY SHORES AND THAT'S HOW IT GOT ITS NAME. IT STARTS TO SHOW UP IN GREAT NUMBERS AT THE START OF SPRING, SO IT'S ALSO CALLED "THE HERALD OF SPRING."
QUESTIONER
ANSWERER
WH?

HEY, WHY AM I THE ONE WHO'S TELLING YOU ALL ABOUT THESE FISH!?
WHAT'S THIS LOKI-KUN?
IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN GIVE YOU A TOUR.
I'M A GUIDE FOR THIS AQUARIUM. MY NAME IS HANA MINAZUKI.

PEOPLE WHO ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED ARE ALWAYS VERY APPRECIATED HERE!
OOH, A PRETTY LADY! PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY VERY CURIOUS FRIEND, HERE~~
THANKS VERY MUCH!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MAYURA, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAD TO FISH FOR THESE...
?
WITH THIS MANY SUPER BIG FISH HERE, YOU GUYS MUST BE SUPER GREAT AT CATCHING 'EM, RIGHT MISS GUIDE!?
YOU SEE, THE TANK AT THIS AQUARIUM IS ABOUT AS WIDE AS A POOL, RIGHT?
IF BITS OF TRASH OR SOMETHING GET IN, WE USE THE BOAT TO GET THEM.
FLOAT FLOAT
TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU?
NO WAY!
YOU USE THAT RUBBER BOAT AT THE EMER-GENCY EXIT!

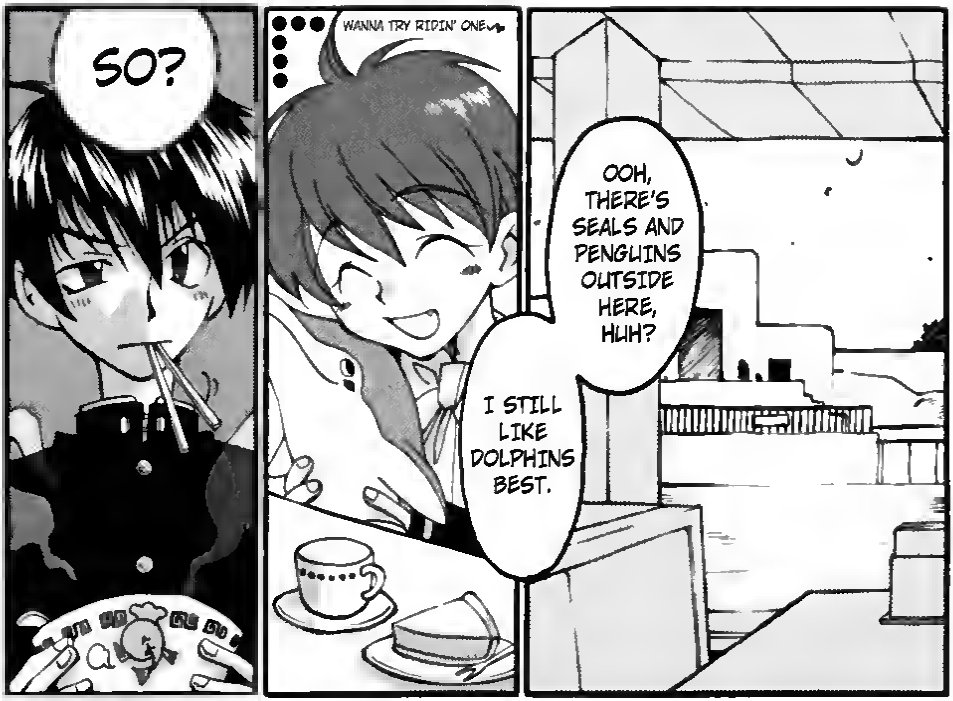
THE LARGEST TANK WE HAVE HERE IS ABOUT 12 FEET DEEP. IT HOLDS 800 TONS OF WATER, SO WE HAVE A FILTER RUNNING IN THE COMPRESSOR ROOM TO KEEP IT CLEAN.
IN ADDITION, WE HAVE A WAVE MAKING DEVICE THAT KEEPS THE WATER FROM MUDDYING UP.
HAVE YOU SEEN INOUE-KUN TODAY?
OH, YES, WHAT IS IT, CHIEF?
OH, LIKE THE POOL AT SCHOOL THEN. I GET IT!
MINAZUKI-SAN.
HEY, DID YOU KNOW THAT OF TWO PEOPLE WHO WEIGH THE SAME, THE ONE WHO IS SKINNIER WILL SINK FASTER?
BUT IF A POOL WAS 12 FEET DEEP... YOU'D DROWN.
I GUESS HE CAME IN VERY EARLY TODAY, BUT HE'S GONE NOW. I WONDER IF HE SKIPPED OUT.
BOUY-ANCY IS VERY MY-STER-IOUS.
LARGER SURFACE AREA FOR PRESSURE TO WORK ON.

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH MINAZUKI-SAN. YOU'LL BOTHER THE CUSTOMERS.
MATSUOKA-SAN...
I'LL WAIT A BIT MORE BEFORE I CALL.
MINAZUKI-SAN, YOU'RE THE BLOOMING FLOWER OF THIS PLACE. SO PLEASE, JUST DO YOUR BEST TO STAY UPBEAT, FOR ALL OF US!
...THANK YOU.
AH... A FLOWER. LIKE YOUR NAME, "HANA."
SUCH A GOOD WORD..
THAT MEANS THAT REALLY FAT FISH CAN'T BE DEEP-SEA FISH!!
MAN, I'M SO SMART~
GASP

EXCUSE ME, MISS GUIDE. DO YOU KNOW NARUKAMI-KUN?
THAT IS A....
WHAT A CUTE FISHY... WHAT'S IT CALLED?
IF YOU MEAN THE PART TIMER, HE'S AT THE SOUVENIR SHOP RIGHT NOW.
I KNEW YOU'D COME BY, LOKI...
I CAME TO SEE YOU, NARU-KAMI-KUN!!
WAHAHA
EEEEEEEE

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
HOW COLD OF YOU, HONEY~ ♡
LAY OFF ME, I'M WORKING RIGHT NO-
HEY, NARU-CHAN, YOU CAN GO ON YOUR BREAK!

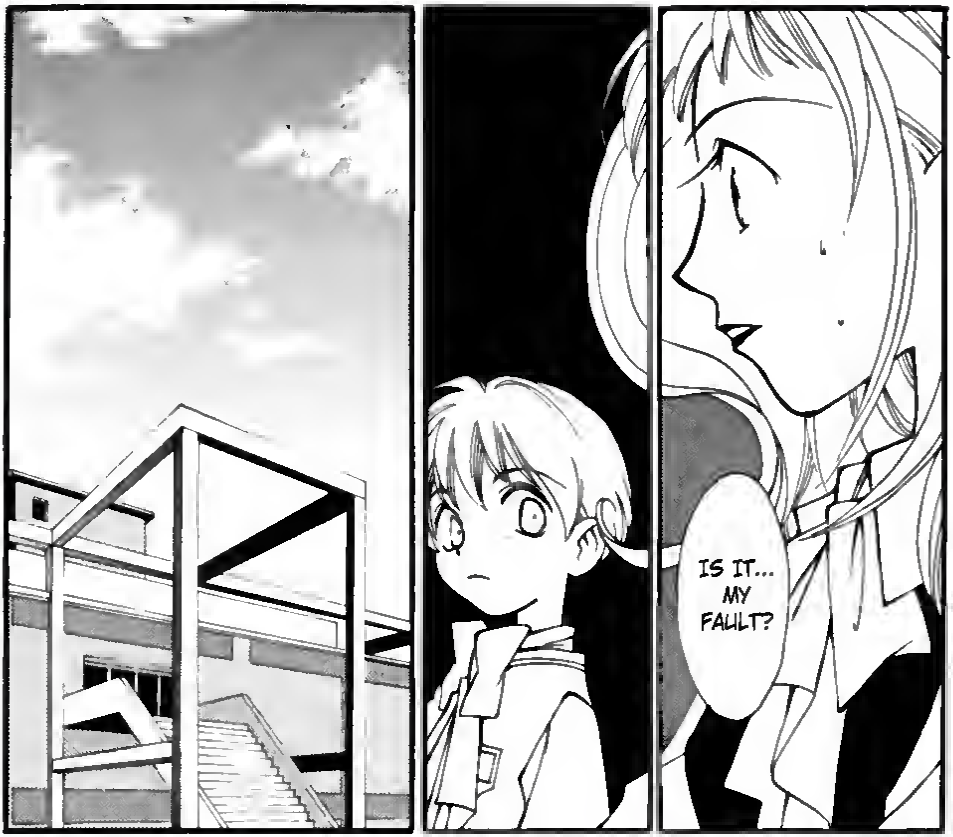
LET'S HAVE SOME TEA OR WHAT-NOT ON THE TERRACE!
C'MON C'MON
DRAG DRAG

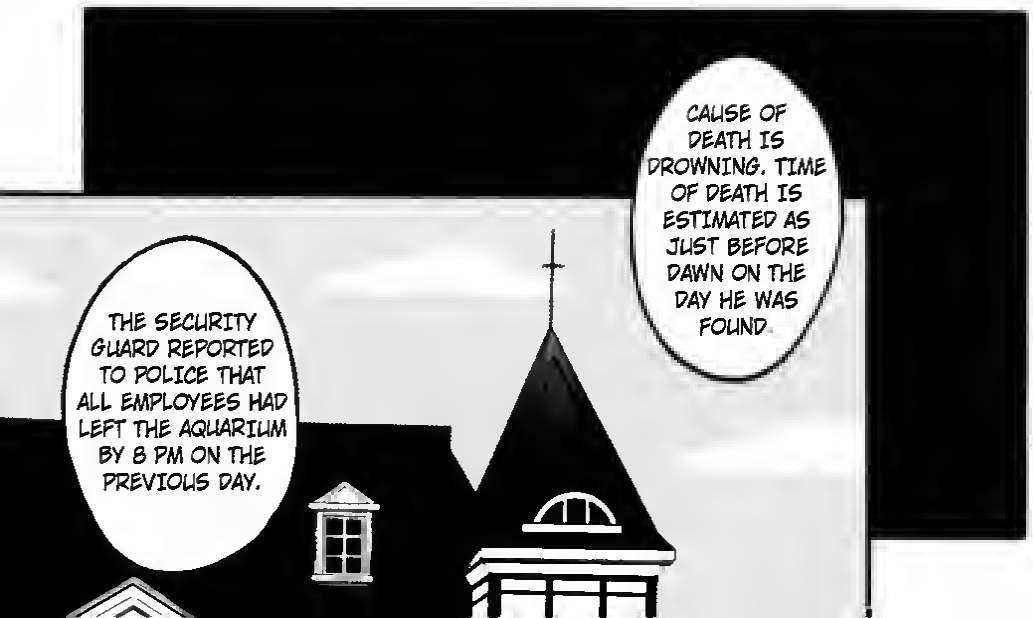

OOH, THERE'S SEALS AND PENGUINS OUTSIDE HERE, HUH?
I STILL LIKE DOLPHINS BEST.
WANNA TRY RIDIN' ONE~
SO?

SO!!
THEN.
LATELY, A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS HAVE COME UP... THE BRISINGAMEN BEING TAKEN AWAY, ET CETERA...
AND THE MURDERER AT REIYA'S MANSION, EVEN AFTER I TOOK THE EVIL OUT OF HIS HEART, HE STILL SEEMED AS IF HE WAS BEING CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE...
YOU CAME TO EARTH AND FREYA TOO... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOUR COMING WAS A COIN-CIDENCE.
SLRRP
WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

BESIDES, I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANNA ASK YOU! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK-
HEYY! SLOW IT DOWN, TOO MUCH, TOO FAST, TOO LOUD !!
STARE
STARE
BESIDES, YOU'RE SO SIMPLE THAT WHATEVER YOU THINK SHOWS ON YOUR FACE. SO WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?
I AM TAKING MY MISSION TO DRAW THE EVIL FROM THE HEARTS OF MEN VERY SERIOUSLY, SO YOU CANNOT BE HERE TO CHECK UP ON ME.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING AND YOU ARE HIDING IT FROM ME. I HAVEN'T KNOWN YOU FOR ALL THIS TIME FOR NAUGHT, YOU KNOW.
STARE
AAAAAAAAAAA
THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE... TANK...
WHAT'S WRONG, MAYURA?

TH-
THAT'S...
...HE
WORKS
HERE...
INOUE-
SAN!!
QUICK,
CALL THE
POLICE...!!

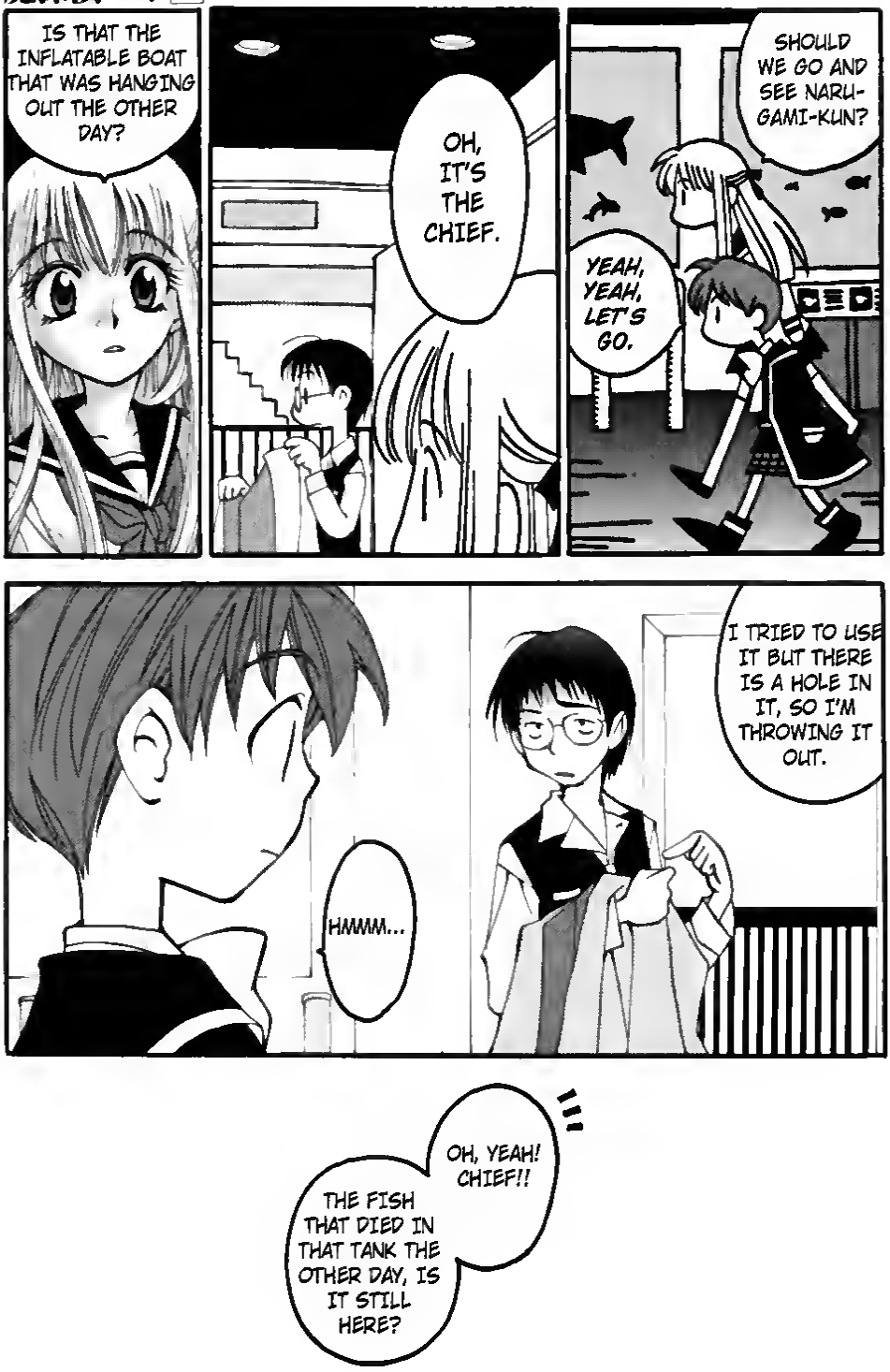

IS IT... MY FAULT?


CAUSE OF DEATH IS DROWNING. TIME OF DEATH IS ESTIMATED AS JUST BEFORE DAWN ON THE DAY HE WAS FOUND.
THE SECURITY GUARD REPORTED TO POLICE THAT ALL EMPLOYEES HAD LEFT THE AQUARIUM BY 8 PM ON THE PREVIOUS DAY.

THE VICTIM CAME IN EARLY TO WORK, AND WHILE PREPARING, HE MADE A MISTAKE AND SLIPPED INTO THE TANK.
THE POLICE HAVE RULED IT AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH...
HUNHHH... THE EMPLOYEE WHO CAN'T SWIM WAS INOUE-SAN, THEN...
I WONDER HOW COME HE WENT AND TOLD ME ALL THAT...
THAT'S WHAT YASU TOLD ME ANYWAY!!
WEIRD HAT
WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ON THE FISH TANK?
TEE HEE
MAYBE THE COPS ARE STARTING TO RELY ON US A LITTLE BIT~?
I'M ALSO A LITTLE BIT CONCERNED ABOUT HANA-CHAN'S REACTION...
ONE OF THE FISH DIED....
HMMM... JUST THAT ONE OF THE FISH DIED TOO, BUT NOTHING OTHER THAN THAT.

I FEEL SOMEHOW UNSETTLED BY ALL OF THIS...
MUST YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THIS INCIDENT?
LOKI-SAMA.
HOW IS THE AQUARIUM HANDLING THIS ACCIDENT?
HM, WELL, NARUGAMI-KUN SAID HE'S WORKING TODAY...
THEN LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.
CH-CHK
...THAT'S WHY I FEEL SO UNSETTLED.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WAS WAITING TO DIE UNTIL I ARRIVED... AM I NOT ALREADY INVOLVED IN THIS CASE?

JUST BEFORE I LEFT. I DON'T LEAVE THE BUILDING UNTIL I'M SURE EVERYONE HAS GONE HOME.
SO MR. SECURITY OFFICER, DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE INOUE-SAN LEAVE?
OH
SEE YOU LATER!
HMMM, HE SEEMED SORT OF DOWN, HE HAD HIS HEAD LOWERED WHEN HE LEFT.
HOW DID INOUE-SAN SEEM?
IT HAD TO BE HIM.
WELL, HE WAS WEARING THE SAME COAT AS ALWAYS.
....SO YOU DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE?


IS THAT THE INFLATABLE BOAT THAT WAS HANGING OUT THE OTHER DAY?
OH, IT'S THE CHIEF.
SHOULD WE GO AND SEE NARUGAMI-KUN?
YEAH, YEAH, LET'S GO.
I TRIED TO USE IT BUT THERE IS A HOLE IN IT, SO I'M THROWING IT OUT.
HMMM...
OH, YEAH! CHIEF!!
THE FISH THAT DIED IN THAT TANK THE OTHER DAY, IS IT STILL HERE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE BACK HERE, LOKI!!
SWOOSH SWOOSH
YOU'RE SCREWING UP MY JOB, GO HOME, GET OUT!

HEY THERE, BUDDY, YA MAKIN' MONEY!?
BANK

HUH? THE GUIDE?
WELL, ANYWAY. I WANT TO KNOW HOW HANA MINAZUKI WAS BEHAVING ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT.

WHETHER YOU'RE MAKIN' MONEY OR NOT... YOU SAY..
I'M DOIN' OOOKAY!
YA KNOW~
UGH, FINE JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!

NO, NO, NO, NO. IF YOU WANT TO BE A REAL BIG TIME SALESMAN, YOU NEED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION LIKE THIS, NOW LISTEN CLOSELY AND REMEMBER THIS...

HMMMM
ACTUALLY, I REMEMBER SEEING THE TWO OF THEM FIGHTING THAT DAY.
HAH! YEAH THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE YOU, PLAYBOY.
OH MY, NO... WITH HER CO-WORKER DYING, SHE MUST BE SO DEPRESSED. I ONLY WANT TO CHEER HER UP A LITTLE...
DO YOU REALLY THINK A PRETTY GIRL LIKE THAT IS A MURDERER? IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
HANA MINAZUKI
INTENSE PURSUIT!
LOVERS
INOUE
MATSU-OKA
SEE, LATELY MATSU-OKA HAS BEEN GOING AFTER HER, AND IT SEEMS LIKE HANA-SAN'S RESISTANCE WAS WAVERING!
THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US, BUT INOUE-SAN AND HANA-SAN WERE DATING.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS FANCY CHART...
SHOCKING! AN AQUARIUM LOVE TRIANGLE!?
OH HOH!
PERHAPS HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING CHEATED ON, AND INOUE DROWNED HIMSELF! IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT!?!

SO, YOU BETTER GET ON IT, IF YOU WANNA COMFORT HER BEFORE MATSUOKA-SAN DOES!
YOU SAW, DIDN'T YOU MATSUOKA-SAN... YOU SAW ME PUSH INOUE-SAN AWAY, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
...HE... WHEN HE GOT ANGRY, HE CHANGED.
...I WAS TALKING ABOUT BREAK-ING UP WITH HIM, AND HE GOT ANGRY...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT THAT HE...
I MAY AS WELL HAVE KILLED HIM MYSELF!
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, MINAZUKI-SAN. THIS WAS A MURDER.
Y-YOU'RE THE BOY FROM... YESTER-DAY...
INOUE-SAN WAS KILLED IN A WAY MEANT TO LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.

GRIN
WHICH ONE YOU AFTER, KIDDO?
'SCUSE ME!! I FOUND THE ONE I WANT!
GRAB
I'D LIKE THIS, THOR. YOUR MJOLNIR.

WHEN WE STARTED TO FIGHT, HE HIT HIS HEAD ON THE WALL AND WAS KNOCKED OUT...
THEN I GOT SCARED AND RAN OUT HERE...
HOW DID INOUE-SAN SEEM, AFTER THE TWO OF YOU HAD YOUR FIGHT, MINA-ZUKI-SAN?
YESTERDAY THIS INFLATABLE BOAT WAS HANGING OUT, AND IT HAS A HOLE IN IT NOW.
THEN THEY PUT INOUE-SAN ON IT AND FLOATED IT OUT ON THE WATER, AND THEN POKED A HOLE IN IT.
INOUE-SAN
DEFLATED BOAT
THEN THE WAVE MACHINE SENT THE BOAT OUT INTO THE TANK.
INOUE-SAN COULDN'T SWIM, COULD HE?
WELL, NO... BUT...
THEN... AFTER THAT...
THE UNCONSCIOUS INOUE-SAN WAS PUT UPON THIS BOAT SO THAT HE WOULD DROWN.
RUSTLE
WHAT!?

WELL, YOU SEE... WHAT IF THEY FIGURED OUT A PLAN LIKE THIS? SO THAT THE BOAT WOULD STAY UP FOR LONGER...
THE KILLER STUCK A PIECE OF FISH FOOD ONTO THE BOAT WITH SOMETHING POINTED. THEN A FISH ATE IT AND THE AIR STARTED TO DRAIN.
CHIM CHIM
YEAH, BUT... NO ONE WAS AROUND WHEN INOUE-SAN DROWNED, AND A HOLE LIKE THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY DRAIN THE BOAT...
THERE WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE IN THE BODY OF THE FISH THAT DIED YESTERDAY. I FOUND THIS...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THEN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, STILL IN INOUE'S CLOTHES, HE CAME AND COLLECTED THE BOAT.
HE PUT INOUE ON THE BOAT AND THEN DRESSED IN HIS CLOTHES AND LEFT.
AND EVERY-ONE BUT MATSUOKA-SAN STILL HAS THEIRS.
THIS IS THE BADGE THAT THE EMPLOYEES OF THE AQUARIUM WEAR. ISN'T IT?

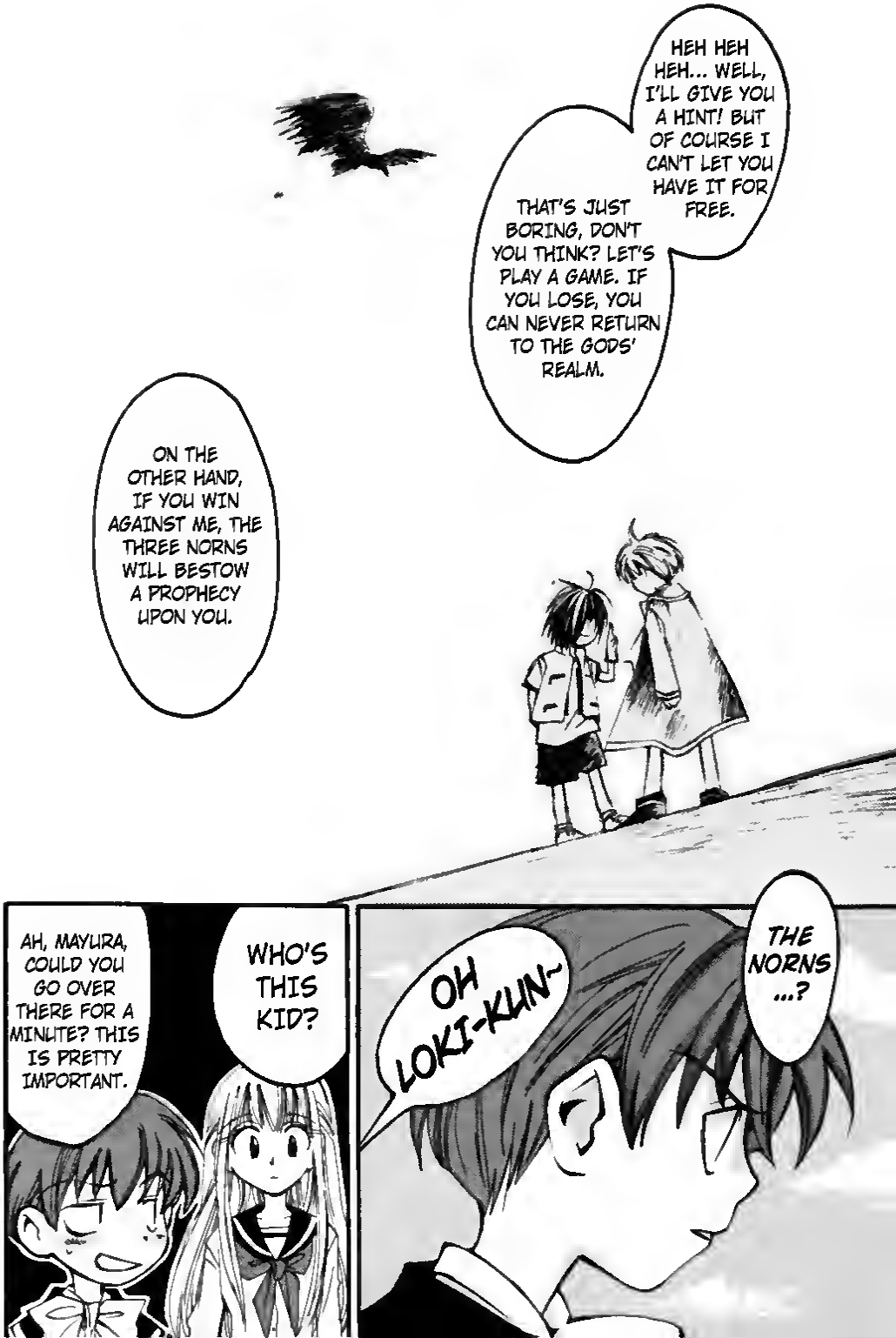
MATSU-OKA-SAN...?
HEH...
A HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I HAD TO GET RID OF HIM, HE WAS IN MY WAY!! IT'S NOT A CRIME TO KILL A PEST, IS IT?
N-NO... MATSUOKA-SAN....
KA CHK

I CAME HERE TO STOP LOKI'S WORK....
TO SEE HIM FAIL. HEH HEH HEH.....

KILLING ANOTHER GOD IS THE WORST SIN A GOD CAN COMMIT... IT CAN'T BE DONE WITHOUT HAVING A WELL-THOUGHT OUT REASON FOR IT.
...
I AM HERE UNDER OUR HIGH GOD'S ORDERS... BUT OF COURSE I ALSO HAVE MY OWN LITTLE GRUDGE. HAHA.
IS THERE REALLY A NEED TO KILL LOKI!?
.....
SEE, DOES THAT MAKE KILLING HIM OKAY?
I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT...

HERE I AM, LOKI!
OH, WELL, I'M VERY HONORED YOU REMEMBER ME.
...SO IT WAS YOU, HEIM-DALL.
BEHIND ALL OF THESE RECENT STRANGE INCIDENTS,
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU FOR EVEN ONE SECOND.

IT TURNS OUT I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO BEARS A GRUDGE.
BUT LOOK, I'M IN A CHILD'S FORM, JUST LIKE YOU. I WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT WAS EVEN, YOU KNOW.
EVEN THOUGH ALL I CAN DO IS NURTURE THE DARKNESS IN THE HEARTS OF HUMANS, AND CONTROL THEM.
YOU'RE PLANNING ON INTERFERING WITH MY WORK HERE, THEN?
WHAT IF I SAID IT WAS UNDER THE HIGH GOD'S COMMAND?
!
WHAT DOES ODIN HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?


HEH HEH HEH... WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT! BUT OF COURSE I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE IT FOR FREE.
THAT'S JUST BORING, DON'T YOU THINK? LET'S PLAY A GAME. IF YOU LOSE, YOU CAN NEVER RETURN TO THE GODS' REALM.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU WIN AGAINST ME, THE THREE NORNS WILL BESTOW A PROPHECY UPON YOU.
THE NORNS ...?
OH LOKI-KUN-
WHO'S THIS KID?
AH, MAYURA, COULD YOU GO OVER THERE FOR A MINUTE? THIS IS PRETTY IMPORTANT.

KISS
YOU MUST BE A FRIEND OF LOKI'S, I'M MAYU-
OH, SORRY, DID I SURPRISE YOU? I WAS BORN ABROAD MAYURA-CHAN.
MY NAME'S KAZUMI HIGASHI-YAMA. NICE TO MEET YOU.

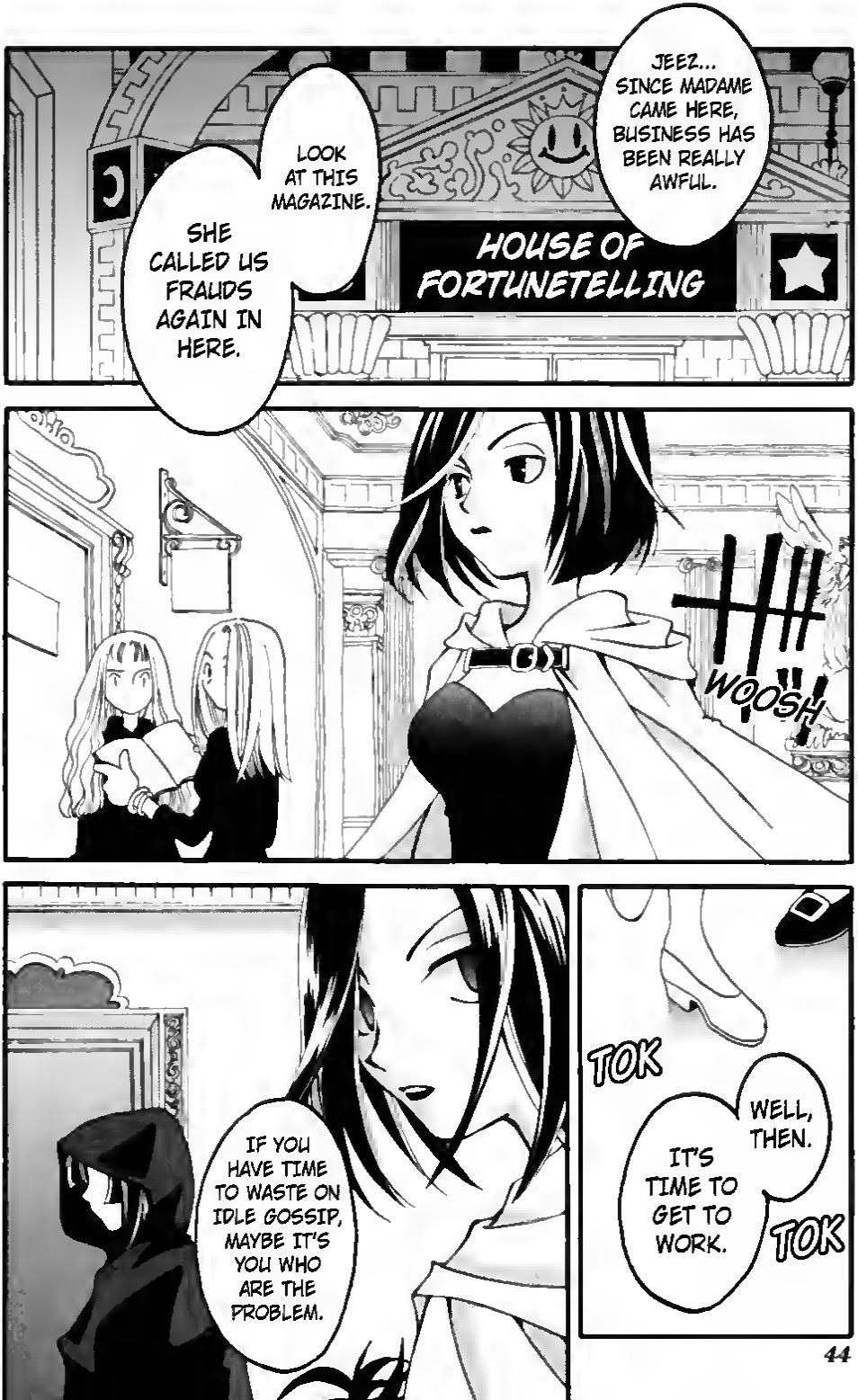
....!
YOU'VE GOT A CUTE ONE ON YOUR HANDS HERE, LOKI. I'D TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, IF I WERE YOU.
TH-THAT WAS A SHOCK! WHAT'S UP WITH THIS KID....!
WELL, I HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL, SEE YOU LATER!
.....
NARU-KAMI-KUN.
...MAYUKA, YOU HAVE TO STICK CLOSE TO ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
HUH?

I'M PLAYING THIS GAME TOO, LOKI.
I'M DONE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.
WHEN I WIN A GAME WITH A CERTAIN KIND INDIVIDUAL, I'LL GET THE ANSWERS.
MY MYSTERY LOVER'S BLOOD IS BOIL-ING!!
I DUNNO WHAT'S UP, BUT...
MY HERO'S BLOOD IS BOIL-ING!!
...AT A DISAD-VANTAGE.
I THINK I'M...
WAIT, WHAT DID YOU SAY?

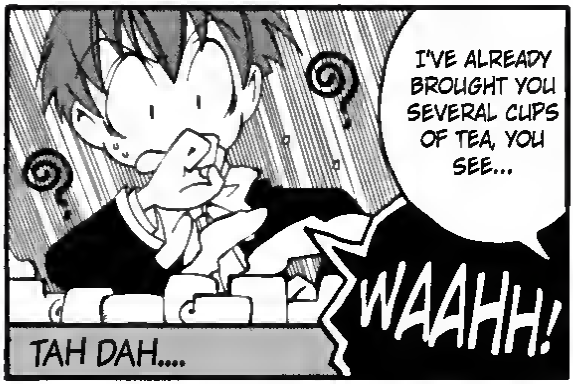
IN MY OPINION,
OUR LORD'S ORDER IS AS GOOD AS FATED.

FOR ME...
NOW THEN, YOUR TURN HAS COME...
...NORNS OF "PRESENT," "NECESSITY" AND "DESTINY."
YOUR DE-FEAT IS EVERY THING.

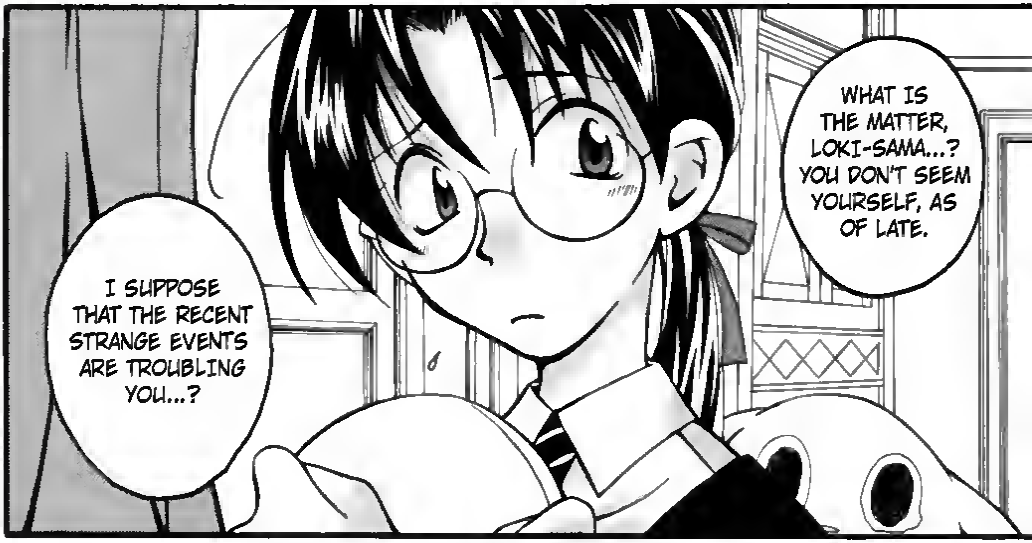
NIGHT 16
LET'S GET OUR FORTUNES TOLD!

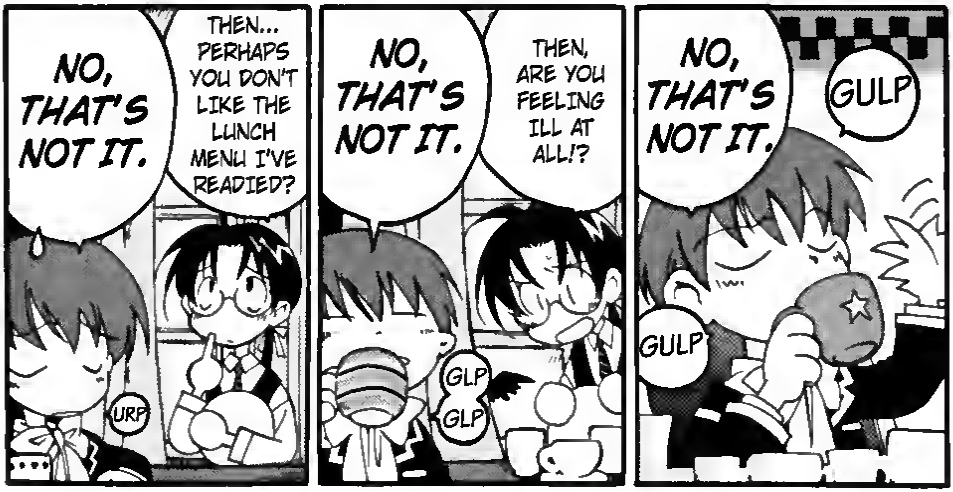

JEEZ... SINCE MADAME CAME HERE, BUSINESS HAS BEEN REALLY AWFUL.
HOUSE OF FORTUNETELLING
LOOK AT THIS MAGAZINE.
SHE CALLED US FRAUDS AGAIN IN HERE.
WOOSH
TOK
WELL, THEN.
IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK.
TOK
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON IDLE GOSSIP, MAYBE IT'S YOU WHO ARE THE PROBLEM.

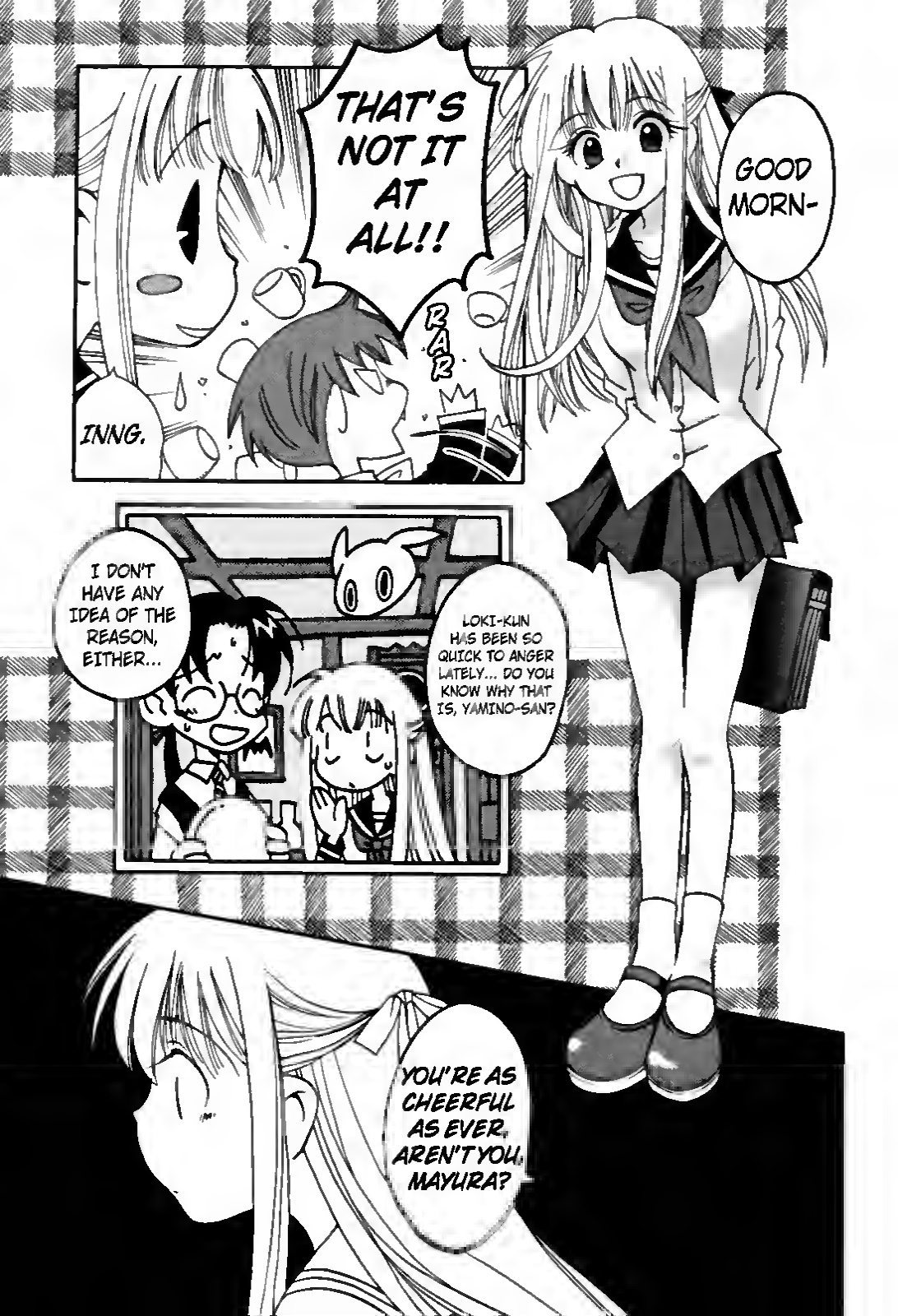
GRR
GRR
YAMINO-KUN, BRING ME TEA.
GRR
GRR
GRR

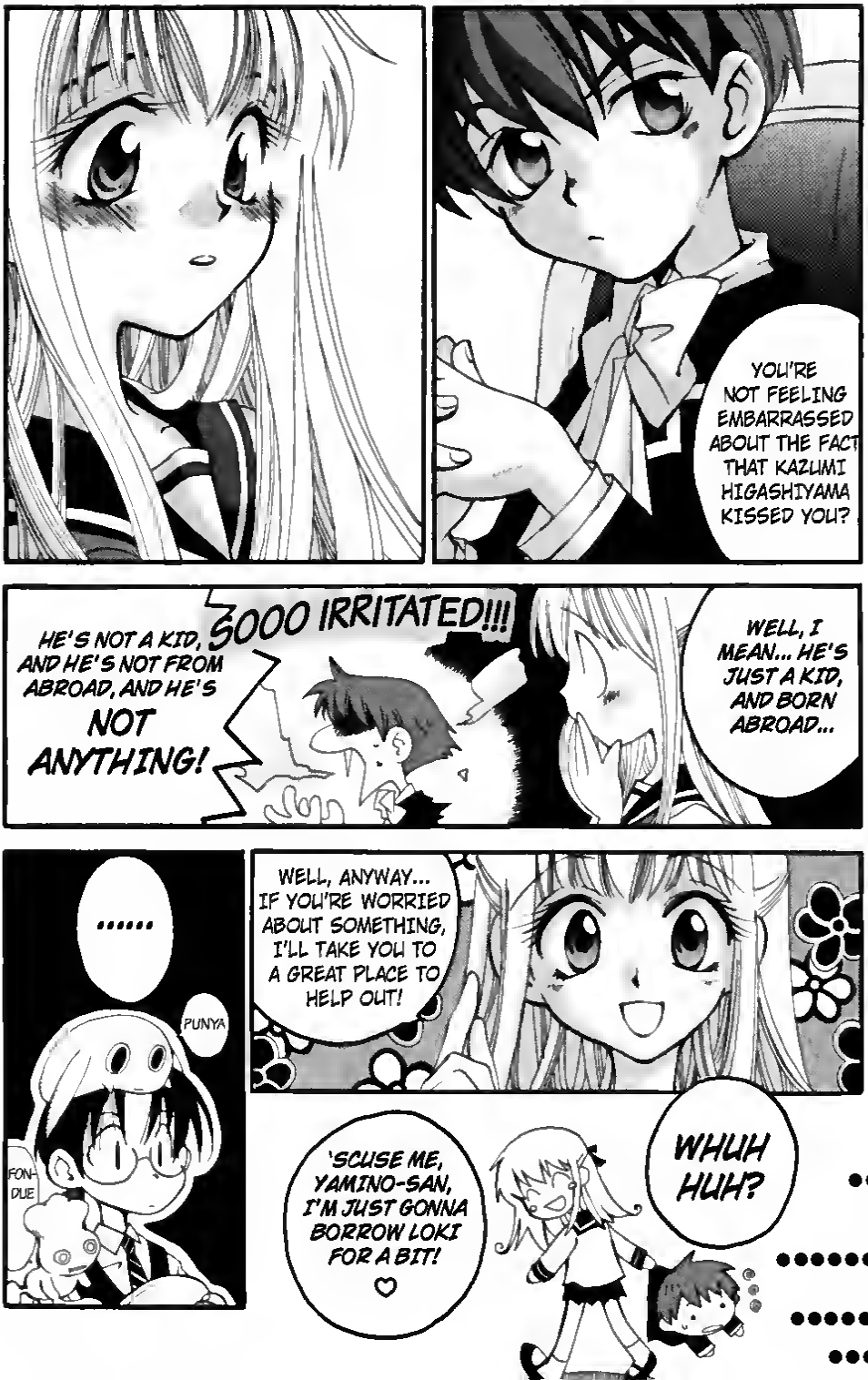

I'VE ALREADY BROUGHT YOU SEVERAL CUPS OF TEA, YOU SEE...
WAAHH!
TAH DAH....

I SAID, BRING ME TEA, YAMI-NO-KUN!
UM... LOKI-SAMA....
PUNYAA PUNYAA
AAA, WOKI-SAMA SCAWY...

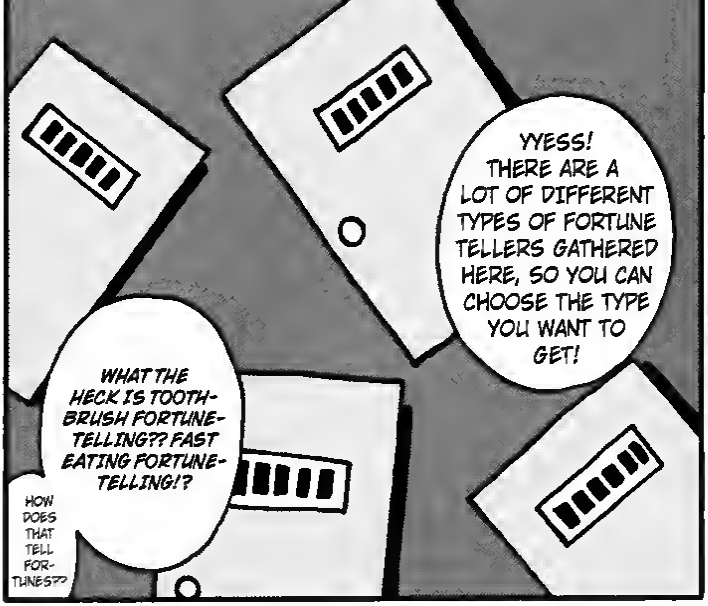

WHAT IS THE MATTER, LOKI-SAMA...? YOU DON'T SEEM YOURSELF, AS OF LATE.
I SUPPOSE THAT THE RECENT STRANGE EVENTS ARE TROUBLING YOU...?


NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
THEN... PERHAPS YOU DON'T LIKE THE LUNCH MENU I'VE READIED?
URP
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
THEN, ARE YOU FEELING ILL AT ALL!?
GLP
GLP
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
GULP
GULP


GOOD MORN-
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!
BAR
INNG.
LOKI-KUN HAS BEEN SO QUICK TO ANGER LATELY... DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS, YAMINO-SAN?
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE REASON, EITHER...
YOU'RE AS CHEERFUL AS EVER, AREN'T YOU, MAYURA?


YOU'RE NOT FEELING EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE FACT THAT KAZUMI HIGASHIYAMA KISSED YOU?
WELL, I MEAN... HE'S JUST A KID, AND BORN ABROAD...
3000 IRRITATED!!!
HE'S NOT A KID, AND HE'S NOT FROM ABROAD, AND HE'S NOT ANYTHING!
WELL, ANYWAY... IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING, I'LL TAKE YOU TO A GREAT PLACE TO HELP OUT!
.....
PUNYA
FON-DUE
WHUH HUH?
'SCUSE ME, YAMINO-SAN, I'M JUST GONNA BORROW LOKI FOR A BIT! ♡

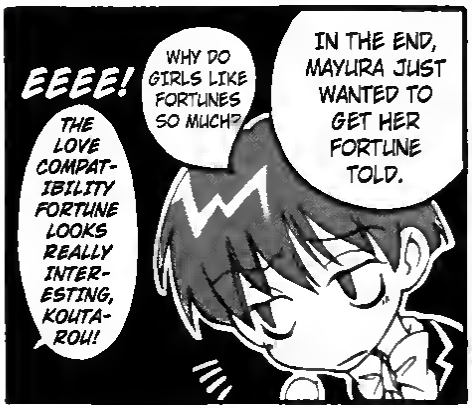
HMM... HMM...
AH I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT HAS LOKI-SAMA SO FRUSTRATED RIGHT NOW...
HOUSE OF
WHAT IS THIS PLACE...? IT'S FULL OF GIRLS...!
EEE
EEE
YEA
HEE HEE
IT'S BEEN SORT OF TALKED ABOUT RECENTLY, THE "HOUSE OF FORTUNE-TELLING"


YYESS! THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF FORTUNE TELLERS GATHERED HERE, SO YOU CAN CHOOSE THE TYPE YOU WANT TO GET!
WHAT THE HECK IS TOOTH-BRUSH FORTUNE-TELLING?? FAST EATING FORTUNE-TELLING!?
HOW DOES THAT TELL FOR-TUNES??

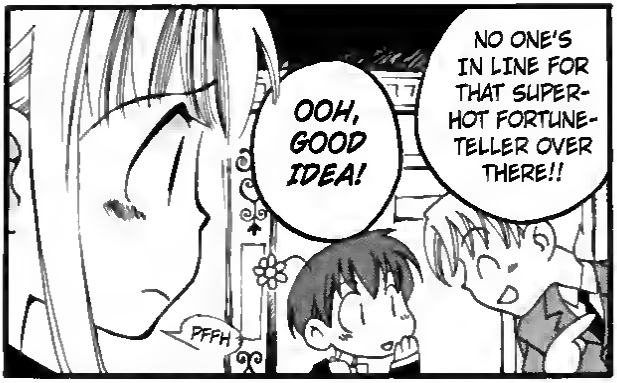
HOUSE OF FORTUNE-TELLING??

DUNN
C'MON, LOKI-KUN, WE GOTTA GET IN LINE!
ALL LINED UP
LIKE A FOOD CART!?

AND LIKE, LATELY THERE'S BEEN THIS ONE FORTUNETELLER, MADAME OOHARA, WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY RIGHT PRETTY MUCH ALL THE TIME!
I WAS THINKING I'D COME AND CHECK HER OUT!
PANDA DINER
MY FORTUNE
CAME TRUE

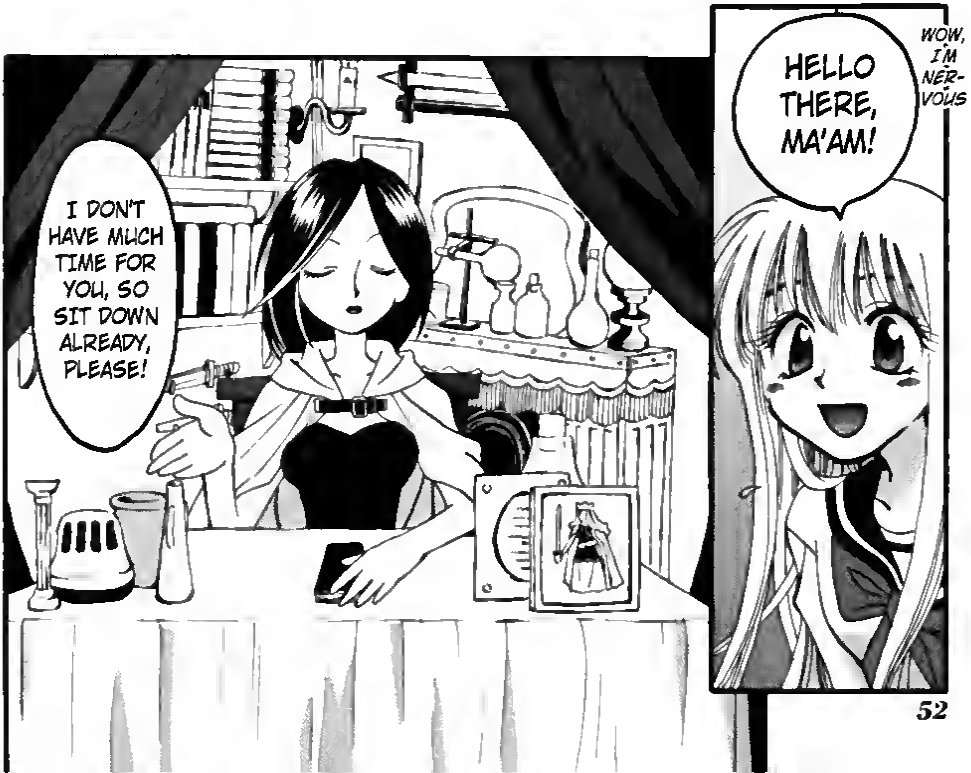

EEEE!
THE LOVE COMPAT-IBILITY FORTUNE LOOKS REALLY INTER-ESTING, KOUTA-ROU!
WHY DO GIRLS LIKE FORTUNES SO MUCH?
IN THE END, MAYURA JUST WANTED TO GET HER FORTUNE TOLD.

KOU-CHAN!
OH, WHAT A CUTE LITTLE BOY!
'SUP, DETECT-IVE.
HUHH... I'M SUR-PRISED TO SEE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, KOU-CHAN.
IT'S NOT IN MY NATURE TO REFUSE AN INVI-TATION FROM A LADY...
I'M VERY GOOD COM-PANY, YOU KNOW.
HEH
NO WAY.
YOU HERE ALONE, DETECTIVE?
I WONDER IF THESE FORTUNE-TELLERS ARE EVER RIGHT?
WHICH ONE...
HM HM
THEY'VE BEEN IN A LOT MORE MAGA-ZINES, TOO!
WHAT THE HECK!? THIS OLD LADY SAYS, "THE OTHER FORTUNE-TELLERS ARE FRAUDS." WHAT A NASTY PIECE OF WORK...
THEY'RE ALL IN THE SAME BUSINESS, SO I GUESS THAT'S WHY THERE'S ALL THE BACKBITING?
ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, EVERYONE'S LINED UP TO SEE HER, AND NO ONE ELSE IS GETTING ANY CUSTOMERS...


NO ONE'S IN LINE FOR THAT SUPER-HOT FORTUNE-TELLER OVER THERE!!
OOH, GOOD IDEA!
PFFH

HEY, DETECTIVE, HOW 'BOUT WE GO AND CHECK OUT A LESS ARROGANT FORTUNE-TELLER?
WHY?

NEXT CUS-TOMER!
FINE! WE'LL JUST BE OVER HERE HAVING OUR FORTUNES DONE BY THE REAL DEAL
WEE
SMILE
SMILE


I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR YOU, SO SIT DOWN ALREADY, PLEASE!
HELLO THERE, MA'AM!
WOW, I'M NER-VOUS

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DIVINE, MY CHILD?
WOW! TAROT CARDS!?
...YOUNG LADY, I AM QUITE BUSY...
AHA HA, SORRY! ♡
UM... WELL.. LET'S SEE. CAN YOU TELL ME IF I'LL BECOME A GREAT DETECTIVE IN THE FUTURE?
BADUM
BADUM
A DETECTIVE...? THAT'S A NEW ONE.
UM, WAIT NO! MAYBE...
....
I ALSO KIND OF WANT TO KNOW IF MY PAPA WILL EVER GET REMARRIED...
BUT I GUESS I'M THE RIGHT AGE TO WANNA KNOW IF I'LL EVER FALL IN LOVE, TOO!!
HE HE ♡
FINE, LET'S GO WITH THAT!!
DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND?

...YAMI-NO-SAN?
MMM... BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE THERE MIGHT BE... SOME OTHER...
YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND?
TIME UP!
JING A LING A LING
AH, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO MEDITATE. PLEASE COME BACK LATER.
WH-WHAT!?
OOH, MEDITATING AGAIN, HUH?
.....
THIS FORTUNE-TELLER IS AL-WAYS GOING OFF TO COMMUNE WITH THE ASTRAL PLANE OR WHATEVER...
SHE'S THE REAL DEAL!
TO-TALLY!

I GUESS I HAVE TO LINE UP AGAIN, HUH...
...AH... YOUR HEART...
IT'S COME INTO VIEW...
!?
YOU'RE IN LOVE, AREN'T YOU?
KOU-CHAN... IF HER FACE IS COVERED, HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SHE'S HOT OR NOT..?
WHIS-PER WHIS-PER WHIS-PER
LIKE THAT'S MY PROB-LEM!
I CAN'T ASK HER TO TAKE IT OFF!

UGH... WHY DID I...
WAH
...EVEN COME HERE TO GET MY FORTUNE TOLD...?

WHAAAAT
WH...
IS THAT TRUE, DETECTIVE!?

WHO COULD IT BE...
HM HM
WAHHH!! WHO ARE YOU THINKING OF!?
WELL, HM... I THINK SHE'S CUTE TOO..

MY PRE-SENCE HERE WAS ALSO...
PLAN-NED BY FATE...

YOUR COMING HERE WAS FATED.
!

AND WITH OUR MEETING NOW... THE GAME WILL INEVITABLY START.
WHO ARE YOU...?
WHIRL
WHAT THE- WHAT'S THAT!?
AAAAA, IT'S MADAME !!

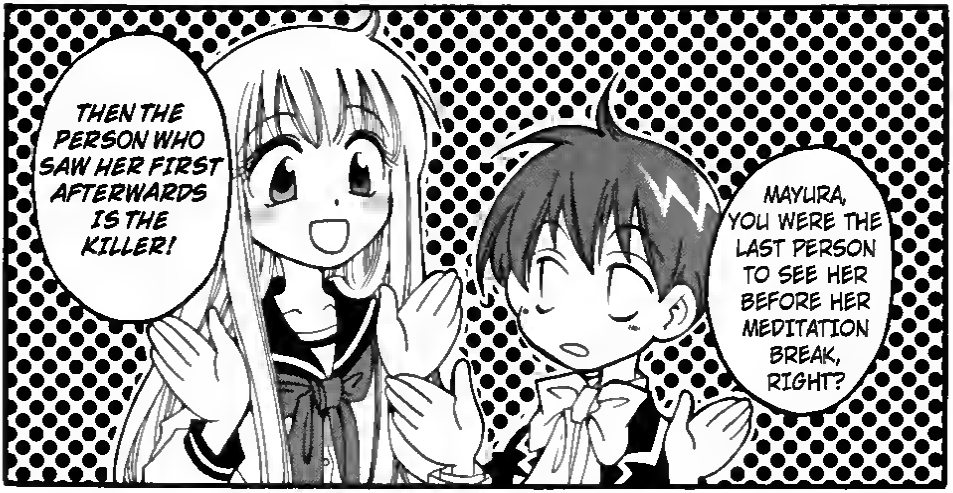
HNH.
THAT'S MY DATE'S VOICE!! LET'S GO, DETECTIVE!
LOKI-KUN!!

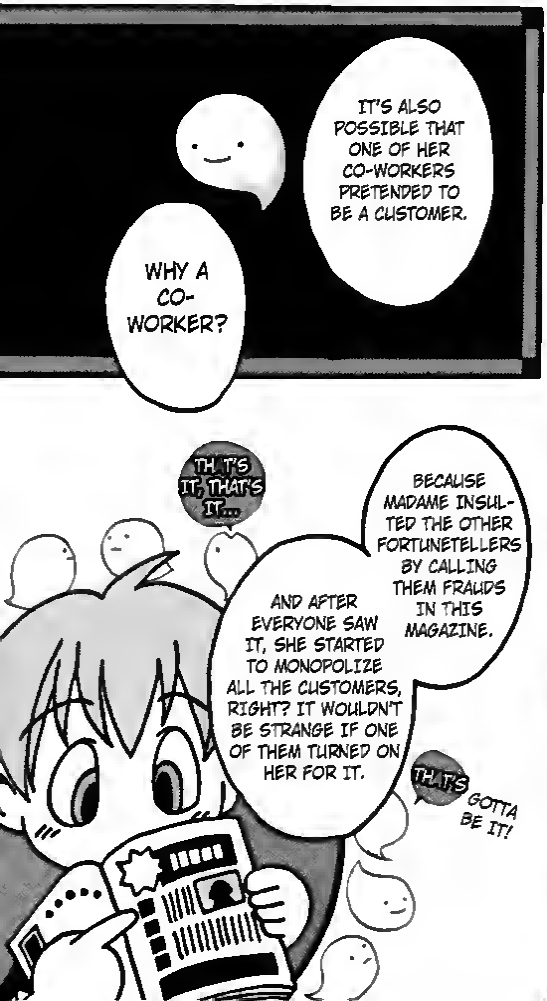
YEAH, SHE SAID IT WAS TIME FOR HER TO MEDITATE.
SHE SENT YOU AWAY?
THIS IS...
THIS IS THE FORTUNE-TELLER WHO SENT ME AWAY...
AND MY CELL PHONE'S NOT GETTING SERVICE... WHAT DO WE DO?
OH NO! THE FRONT DOOR WON'T OPEN!?
NO WAY!
MEDI-TATION, HUH?
HEY, LOKI, HOW'S IT GOING?
I SENSE SOME-THING STRANGE...

WELL THEN, THE GAME HAS BEGUN. THE MURDERER IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS BUILDING. FIND THEM AND DISPEL THE EVIL INSIDE THEM.
IF YOU CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE... HAHAHA.
HEIM-DALL!!
....
O-KAY..
I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
LOKI-KUN!! THE EMERGENCY EXITS WON'T OPEN EITHER! WE'RE STUCK IN HERE!!
PANIC
CALM DOWN, MAYURA.
PANIC

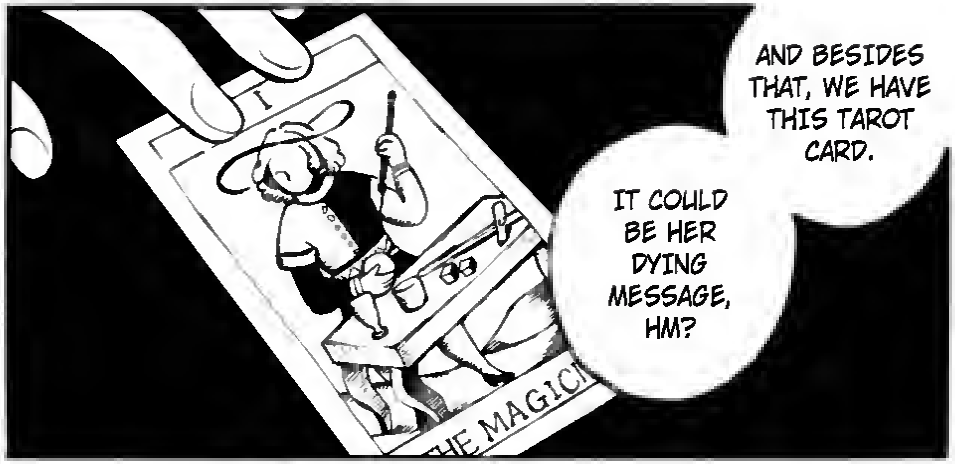
I CAN SEE NO OBVIOUS SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE, SO IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GRUDGE MURDER...
REAL-LY!?
POP!
WHEN I FIND THE MURDERER, THE DOORS WILL ALL BE OPENED.
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS A PICTURE OF A WOMAN WITH A SWORD.
I WONDER IF THE VICTIM DROPPED IT WHEN SHE FELL?
HEY, LOKI-KUN. THIS JIGSAW PUZZLE...
HEY, DETEC-TIVE!
THIS WAS HOW IT WAS WHEN YOU LEFT, RIGHT?
DONE!
THEN THE ONE YOU SAW MUST HAVE BEEN THE QUEEN OF SWORDS, FROM THE TAROT'S MINOR ARCANA.
PLIK
PLIK

I GUESS MY DATE WAS THE FIRST WITNESS ON SCENE.
UM, WELL... MADAME'S MEDITATION WAS OVER AND THE PERSON IN FRONT OF ME WENT IN...
THEN PRETTY SOON THAT PERSON CAME OUT AND IT WAS MY TURN.
BUT I WAITED AND WAITED OUTSIDE THE DOOR, AND SHE DIDN'T CALL FOR THE NEXT PERSON.
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE, AND WHEN I PEEKED INSIDE...
I WONDER IF IT REALLY WAS MADAME WHO CALLED THE OTHER PERSON INTO THE ROOM...
YES, IT WAS. I'VE SEEN HER SEVERAL TIMES, AND NOW I KNOW MADAME'S VOICE.

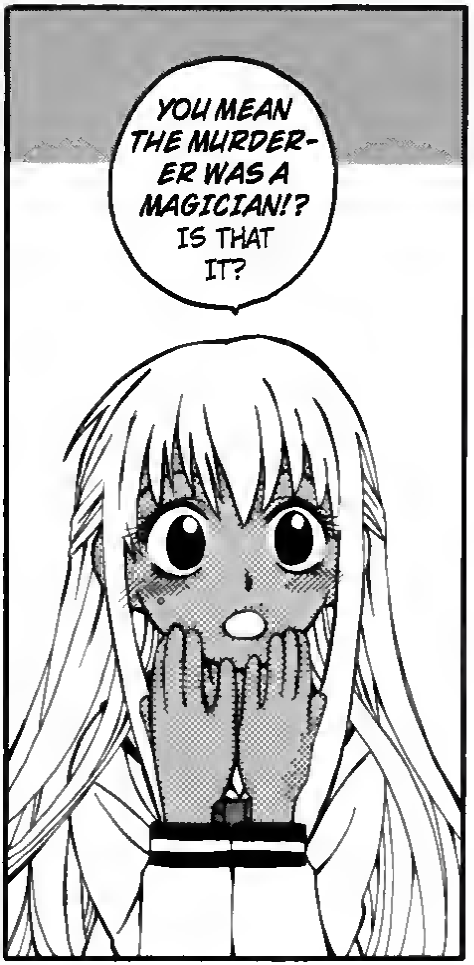

THEN THE PERSON WHO SAW HER FIRST AFTERWARDS IS THE KILLER!
MAYURA, YOU WERE THE LAST PERSON TO SEE HER BEFORE HER MEDITATION BREAK, RIGHT?


IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT ONE OF HER CO-WORKERS PRETENDED TO BE A CUSTOMER.
WHY A CO-WORKER?
TH_T'S IT, THAT'S IT...
BECAUSE MADAME INSULTED THE OTHER FORTUNETELLERS BY CALLING THEM FRAUDS IN THIS MAGAZINE.
AND AFTER EVERYONE SAW IT, SHE STARTED TO MONOPOLIZE ALL THE CUSTOMERS, RIGHT? IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF ONE OF THEM TURNED ON HER FOR IT.
TH_T'S GOTTA BE IT!

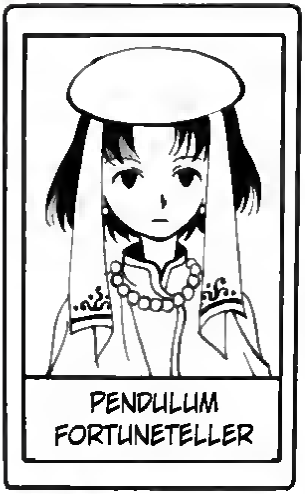
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA BE SO EASY AS ALL THAT. NOBODY SAW THE FACE OF HER NEXT CLIENT, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'VE GONE TO.
KOUTAROU DID SOME LEGWORK AT SOME POINT.
YEP
YEP
RIGHT?
HMM, I LOOK PRETTY DETECTIVEY. ♡

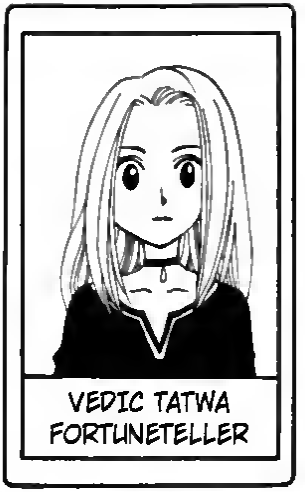

AND BESIDES THAT, WE HAVE THIS TAROT CARD.
IT COULD BE HER DYING MESSAGE, HM?

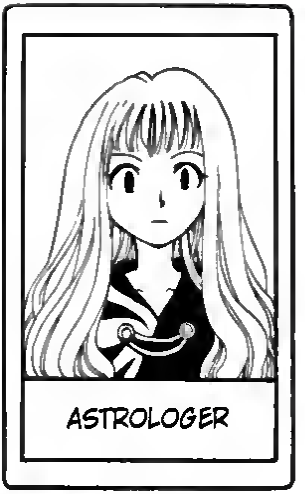
THERE IS A MEANING IN THE WAY THAT SHE HELD THE CARD AS WELL. IT WAS UPSIDE DOWN.
THE OPPOSITE NUMBER OF THE MAGICIAN IS *THE FRAUD!*


YOU MEAN THE MURDER-ER WAS A MAGICIAN!? IS THAT IT?

THEREFORE, ONE OF THE WOMEN THAT MADAME CALLED A FRAUD IS THE MURDERER!!





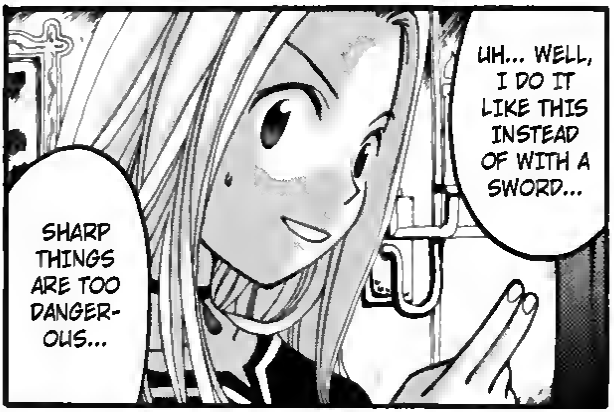


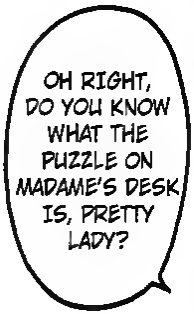
I TOLD YOU, THE QUEEN OF SWORDS.
I'LL GO SEE ANY PRETTY LADY~
OH RIGHT, THAT REMINDS ME, MAKE SURE YOU ASK THEM ABOUT THE PUZZLE ON THE DESK.

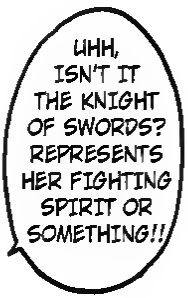
'SCUSE ME, CAN YOU DIVINE FOR ME THE IDENTITY OF MADAME'S KILLER?
HEE HEE
TOSS
WHAT THE HECK, KID! THERE'S NO WAY I COULD KNOW THAT!
OH GOSH.
THE TEACHINGS OF VEDIC TATTOWA ARE TO OFFER YOUR POWER AT THE POINT OF A SWORD.
AND SUMMON A SERAPH TO TAKE YOUR OFFER.
THE KING OF SWORDS. IT MEANS SOMEONE WHO HOLDS POWER. PFF. WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!
UMMM WELL, HAVE YOU SEEN THE PUZZLE THAT MADAME KEEPS ON HER DESK?

WELL THEN, LET'S BEGIN.
WHY AREN'T YOU DOING IT WITH A SWORD?

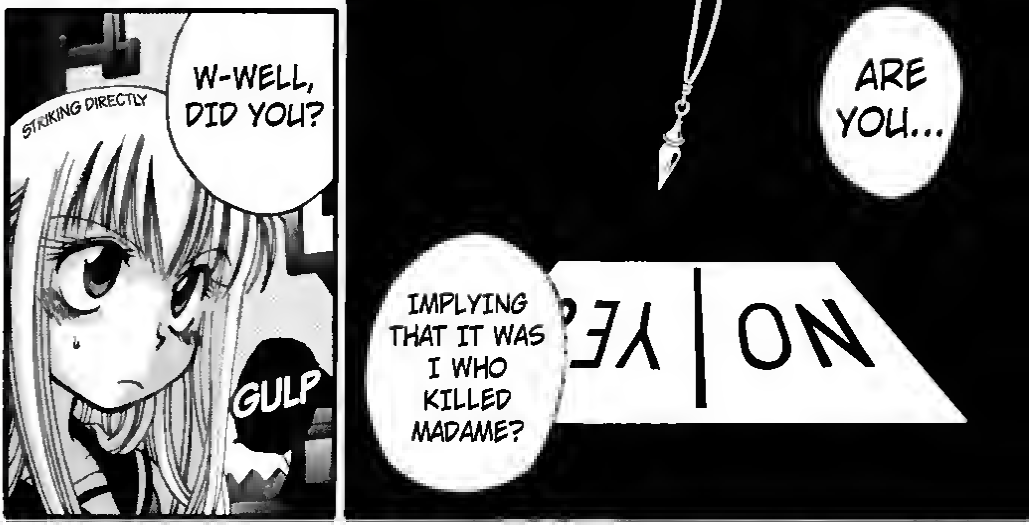
SIGH...
SOMEHOW KOUTAROU GOT ROPED INTO HAVING HIS FORTUNE TOLD.

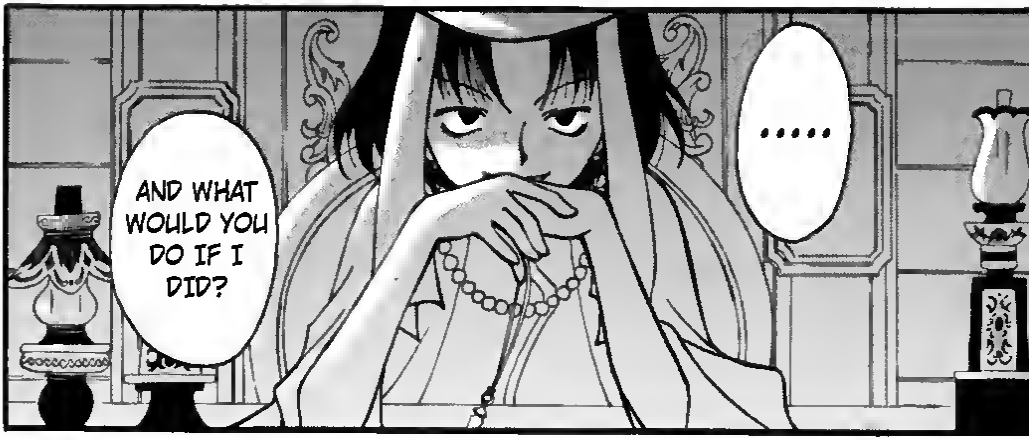

UH... WELL, I DO IT LIKE THIS INSTEAD OF WITH A SWORD...
SHARP THINGS ARE TOO DANGER-OUS...

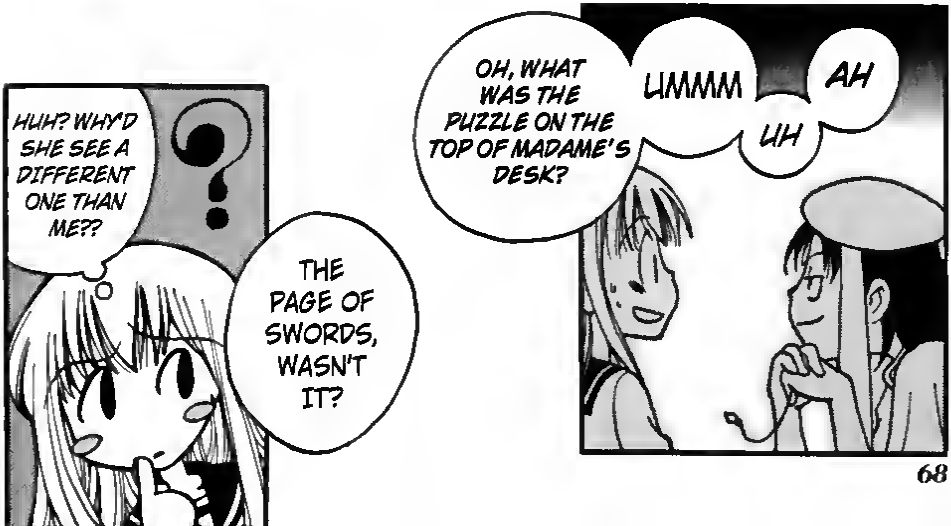

OH RIGHT, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PUZZLE ON MADAME'S DESK IS, PRETTY LADY?


UHH, ISN'T IT THE KNIGHT OF SWORDS? REPRESENTS HER FIGHTING SPIRIT OR SOMETHING!!

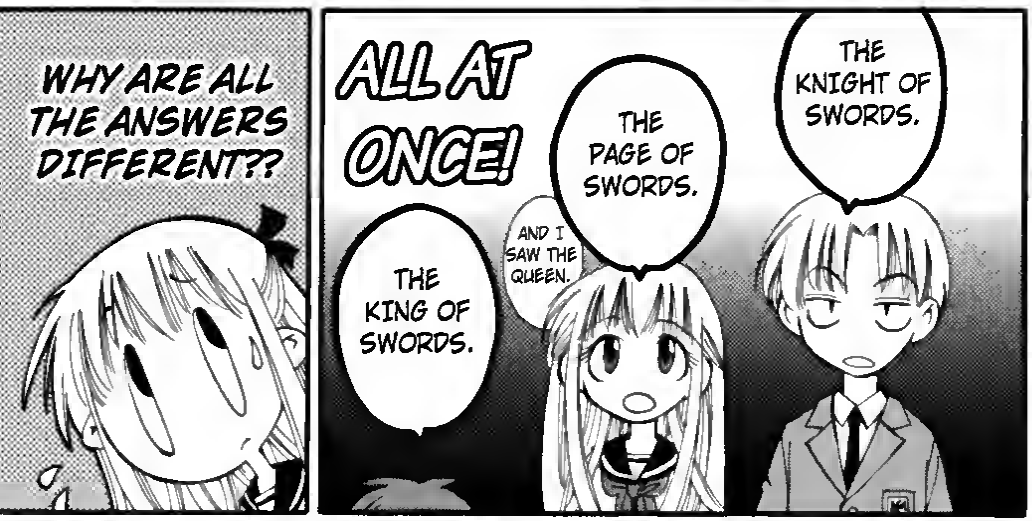
KIND OF TOTALLY SUSPIC-IOUS THOUGH...
THAT'S...
...

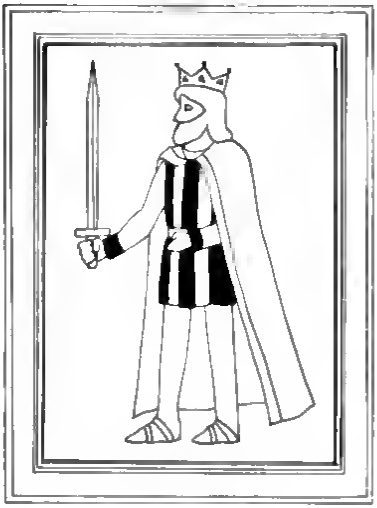

W-WELL, DID YOU?
STRIKING DIRECTLY
GULP
ARE YOU...
IMPLYING THAT IT WAS I WHO KILLED MADAME?
NO | YE

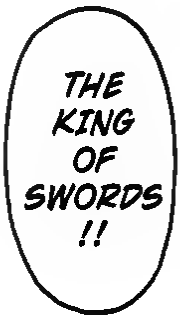

AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I DID?
.....


OH, WHAT WAS THE PUZZLE ON THE TOP OF MADAME'S DESK?
UMMM
AH
UH
HUH? WHY'D SHE SEE A DIFFERENT ONE THAN ME??
THE PAGE OF SWORDS, WASN'T IT?

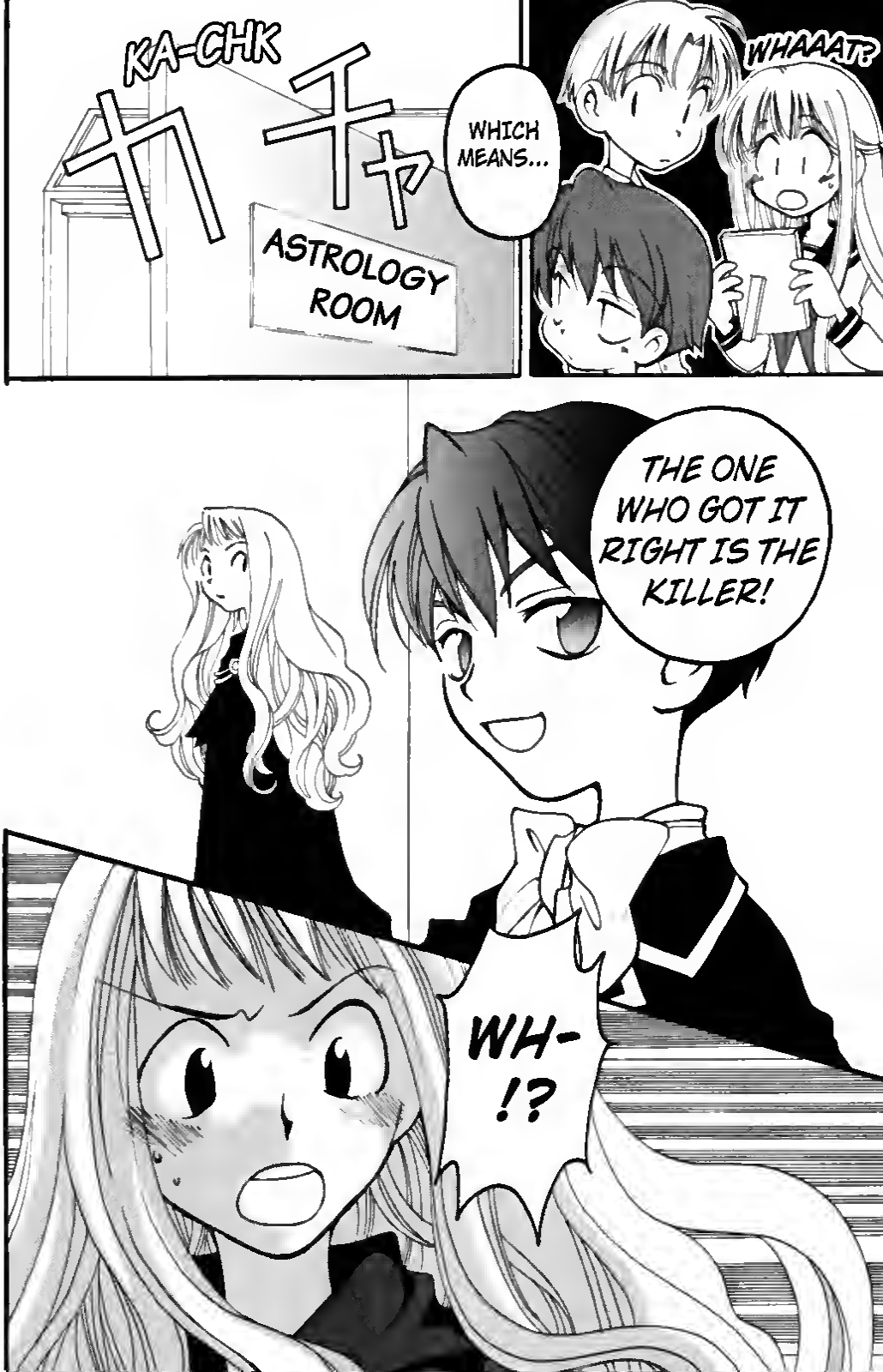
WHAT DID THEY SAY THE PUZZLE WAS, ALL AT ONCE NOW!
HOW'D IT GO, EVERYONE?

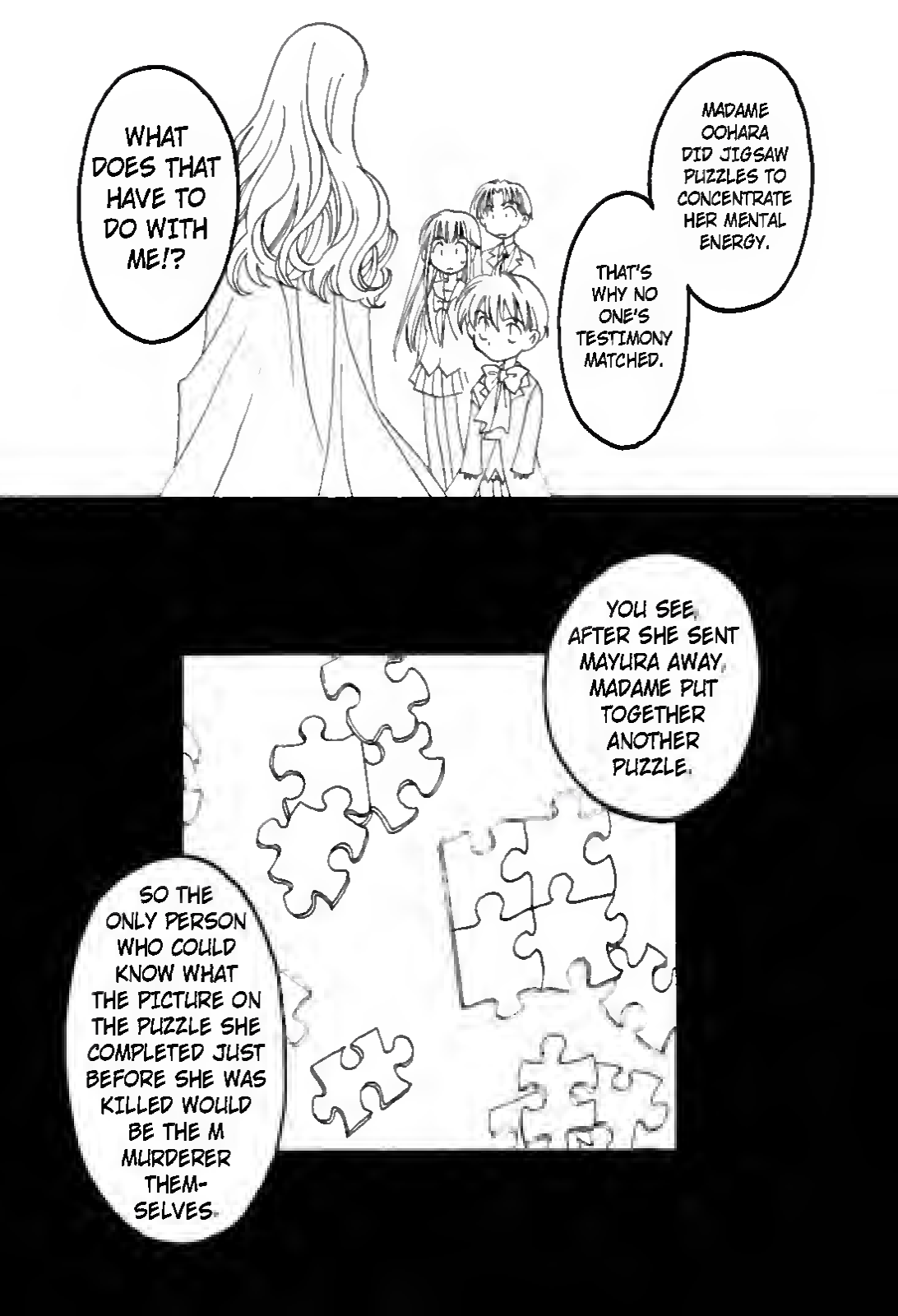

WHY ARE ALL THE ANSWERS DIFFERENT??
ALL AT ONCE!
THE KING OF SWORDS.
AND I SAW THE QUEEN.
THE PAGE OF SWORDS.
THE KNIGHT OF SWORDS.

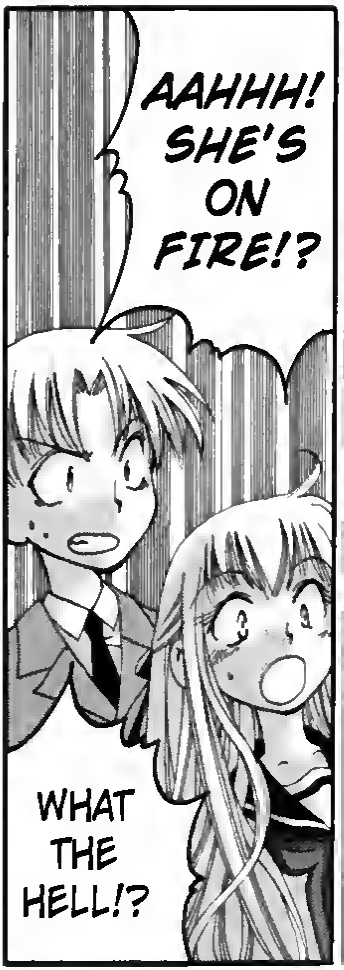



THE KING OF SWORDS !!

THE RIGHT ANSWER WAS...


KA-CHK
ASTROLOGY ROOM
WHICH MEANS...
WHAAAT?
THE ONE WHO GOT IT RIGHT IS THE KILLER!
WH-!?


WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME!?
MADAME OOHARA DID JIGSAW PUZZLES TO CONCENTRATE HER MENTAL ENERGY.
THAT'S WHY NO ONE'S TESTIMONY MATCHED.
YOU SEE, AFTER SHE SENT MAYURA AWAY, MADAME PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER PUZZLE.
SO THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD KNOW WHAT THE PICTURE ON THE PUZZLE SHE COMPLETED JUST BEFORE SHE WAS KILLED WOULD BE THE M MURDERER THEM-SELVES.


AAHHH! SHE'S ON FIRE!?
WHAT THE HELL!?

FWSH
HEH HEH HEH... GOT IT IN ONE.
THIS WOMAN IS CONSUMED BY THE FLAMES OF ENVY...

WELL NOW, YOU CAN SEE IT? THEN LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
THAT IS THE DEMON ARMY OF SOLOMON, WHICH RULES OVER THE ART OF STROLOGY.

FSH
SHOOF
I WILL DRAW THE EVIL FROM YOU...
VIII
JUSTICE
WITH THE THUNDER-BOLT OF JUSTICE!

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, LOKI-SAMA.
YOU ARE THE NORN OF FATE, ARE YOU NOT?
PERFORM YOUR DUTIES FOR ME.
WAAAAAAAAA
THE FIRE... WENT OUT...
...DE-TEC-TIVE?

NO MATTER HOW A GOD CONTINUES TO DRAW THE EVIL FROM THE HEARTS OF MEN, IT HAS NO MEANING.

IN THE END, HUMANS WILL CONTINUE TO OBSESS OVER AND BE POSSESSED BY EVIL.

AND THAT, TOO... IS A PART OF DESTINY.

HOW WAS MY PERFORM-ANCE?
HEIM-DALL-SAMA
HEH HEH HEH...
IT REALLY IS SO FUN TO PLAY WITH YOU, LOKI...

BUT WHAT WAS THAT!?
HOW'D YOU PUT OUT THAT FIRE??
I'M SO GLAD YOU GOT BACK SAFE, LOKI-KUN.
HUH...?
OH... UM....
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO GET YOUR FORTUNE TOLD ABOUT?
I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
UHHH, YEAH, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT TO KNOW.
WILL I BE A GREAT DETECTIVE IN THE FUTURE!?

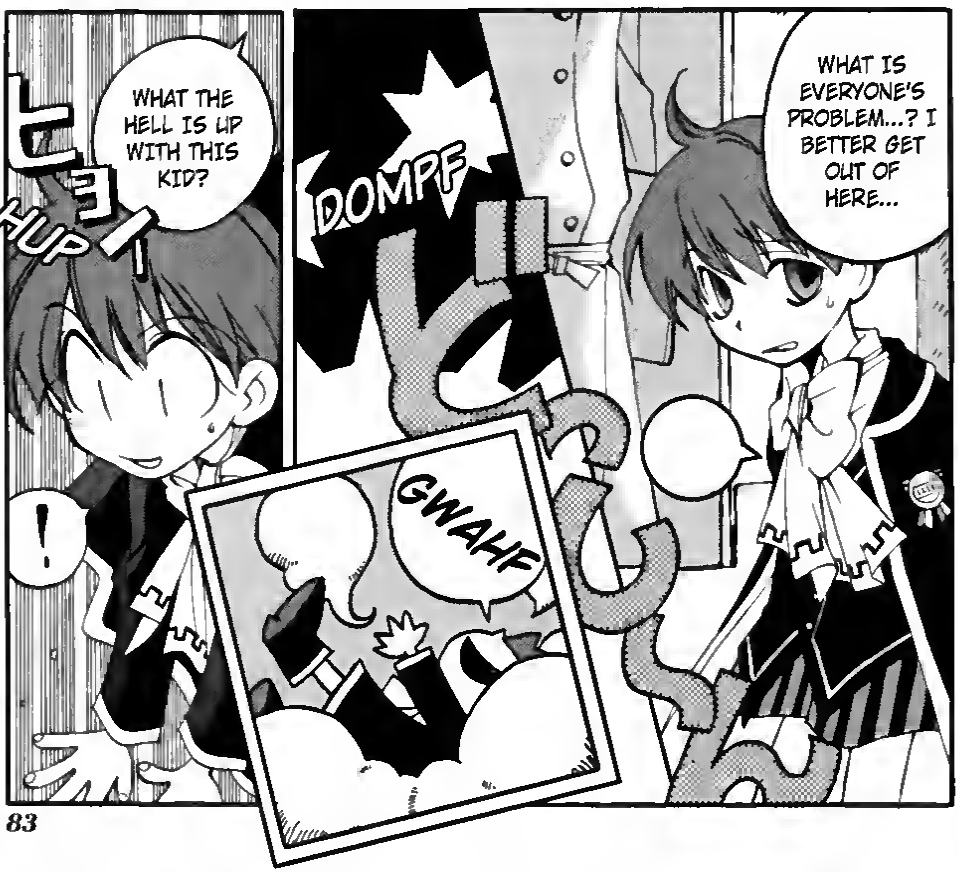
NIGHT 17
MYSTICAL
DETECTIVE'S
BISTRO

....UM, LOKI-KUN?
HM?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU...
TMP TMP TMP TMP
ドドドド
LOKI-SAMA!!
I DID IT! "KITCHEN BATTLE DE DON!!"
I'M GOING TO BE AN AMATEUR CHEF CHALLEN-GER!!

THAT REALLY POPULAR TV SHOW!?
WHAT'S THAT?
SLURRP
I WATCH IT EVERY DAY!
IT'S A SHOW WHERE TEAMS OF CHEFS AND GOURMETS BATTLE EACH OTHER!!
BUT... YAMINO, WHY DID YOU...
OHH, THE TEAMS HAVE TO HAVE FIVE PEOPLE, BUT...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, LOKI-SAMA.
NOTIFI-CATION
KITCHEN BATTLE DE DON!
WELL THEN, I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE YOU UP A TEAM!!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE--!!
I WILL DO MY BEST.
ARE WE REALLY DOING THIS!?
MAYURA-SAN, HAVE YOU FOUND THE LAST TEAM MEMBER YET?
OF COURSE I HAVE!
I MEAN, IF WE WIN, THE BATTLE, THE PRIZE IS 500,000 YEN!!

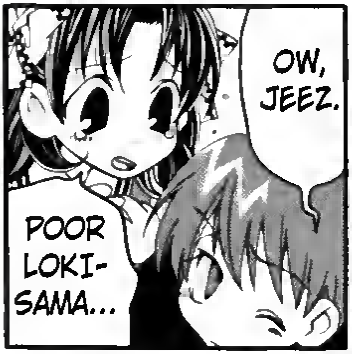
NARU-GAMI-SAN!?
DUN DUN
YOU THINK WE GOT A CHANCE, LOKI?
EVEN NARUKAMI-KUN...
NOPE! I'M JUST DOING WHAT I'VE GOTTA DO TO KEEP FOOD ON MY TABLE.
CAN YOU EAT PRIDE?
HAVE YOU NOT THE PRIDE OF A GOD?
WAIT, I'M THE ONE WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS COOKING TEAM.
GASP!
IS THIS MY CHANCE TO GET BACK AT NARUGAMI-SAN FOR BULLYING ME BACK ON ASGARD!?
YEEK
YEEK
HUH? WHERE'D YAMINO-SAN GO?

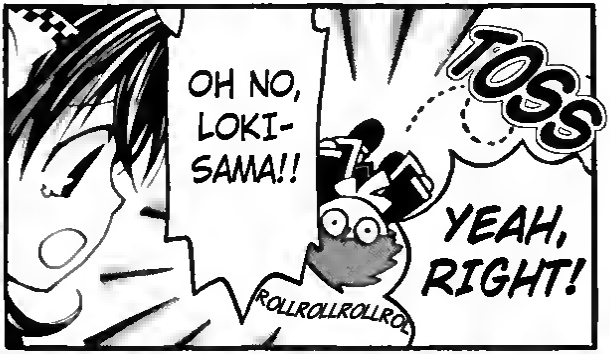
....!
EVERYONE IS SUPER PUMPED
HEY, C'MON LOKI-KUN, TIME TO GET CHANGED INTO YOUR CHEF CLOTHES!
WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO EAT, LOKI-KUN?
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
I'LL DO IT....
JU-DAS' EAR MUSH ROOM!
WAH HA HA HA HA HA


WHAT IS EVERYONE'S PROBLEM...? I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE...
DOMPF
GWAHF
WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH THIS KID?
ヒョイ
HUP!
!

THAT'S SUZUDOU! THEY CALL HIM THE PRINCE OF FRENCH!
LOKI-SAMA!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO BE!
YOU CAN'T JUST BE WANDERING AROUND BACK HERE, KID.
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO TREAT LOKI-SAMA THAT WAY.
MENACING ATMOSPHERE
ARE YOU THE LEADER OF TODAY'S OPPOSING TEAM?

WHAT!? THIS LITTLE KID!?!?
HMPH!
STRAIGHT FORWARD!
NO, I'M NOT THE LEADER. THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS THE ONE YOU'RE HOLDING ON TO RIGHT NOW: LOKI-SAMA.
HE'S MY BOSS!


OW, JEEZ.
POOR LOKI-SAMA...

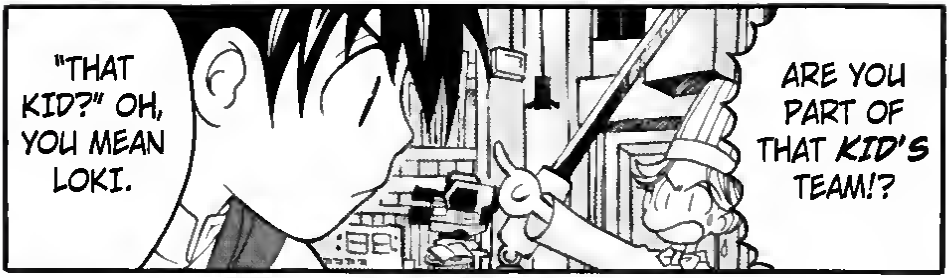

OH NO, LOKI-SAMA!!
TOSS
YEAH, RIGHT!
ROLLROLLROLLROL

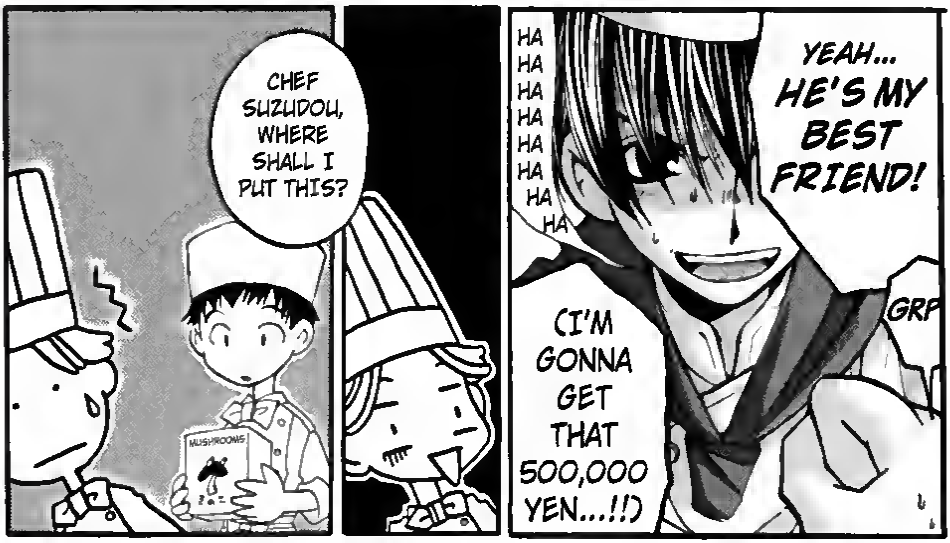
KA DNK
WAH!
THUNK

SHE'S JUST A LITTLE KID, SO WHAT'S WITH THE HEAT IN THAT LOOK!?
YEEK

GLARE

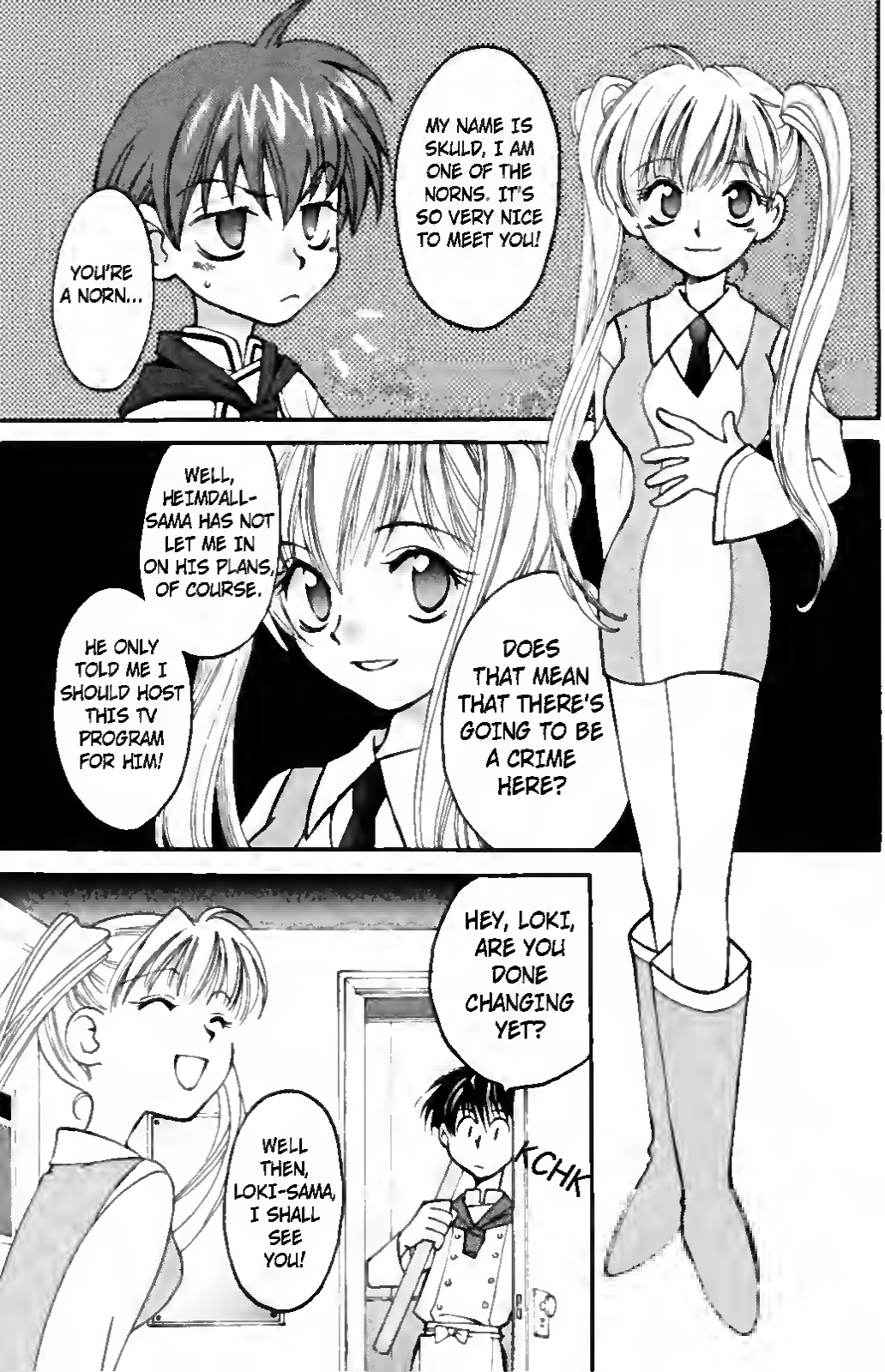
KA-CHING
HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
GWAHHH
A... WOOD-EN SWORD ??

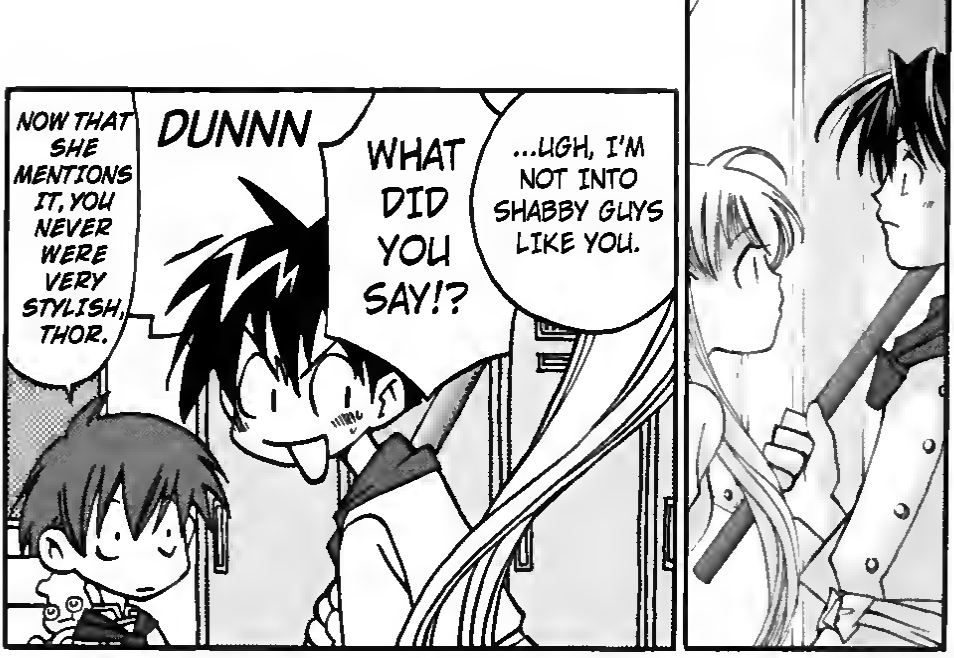

"THAT KID?" OH, YOU MEAN LOKI.
ARE YOU PART OF THAT KID'S TEAM!?


CHEF SUZUDOU, WHERE SHALL I PUT THIS?
MUSHROOMS
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
YEAH... HE'S MY BEST FRIEND!
GRP
(I'M GONNA GET THAT 500,000 YEN...!!)

WHAT AN UNPLEASANT PERSON.
HE SURE IS TAKING IT OUT ON THAT GUY...
IF WE LOSE TO THEM, IT'LL BE ALL YOUR FAULT!!
EEEEK
OH NOOO, I'M SORRY!!
WAAA
GRR
HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE YOU, YOU MORON, SAKASHITA!?
HEHEHE... AS USUAL, THERE'S A LOT OF NOISE AND CONFUSION AROUND LOKI.
LET ME GIVE YOU ONE MORE NOISY PERSON TO DEAL WITH.
GLOMP
BOOM BOOM BOOM
LOKI-SAMA!!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME??
WELL, I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO STICK BY YAMINO-KUN FOR TODAY.

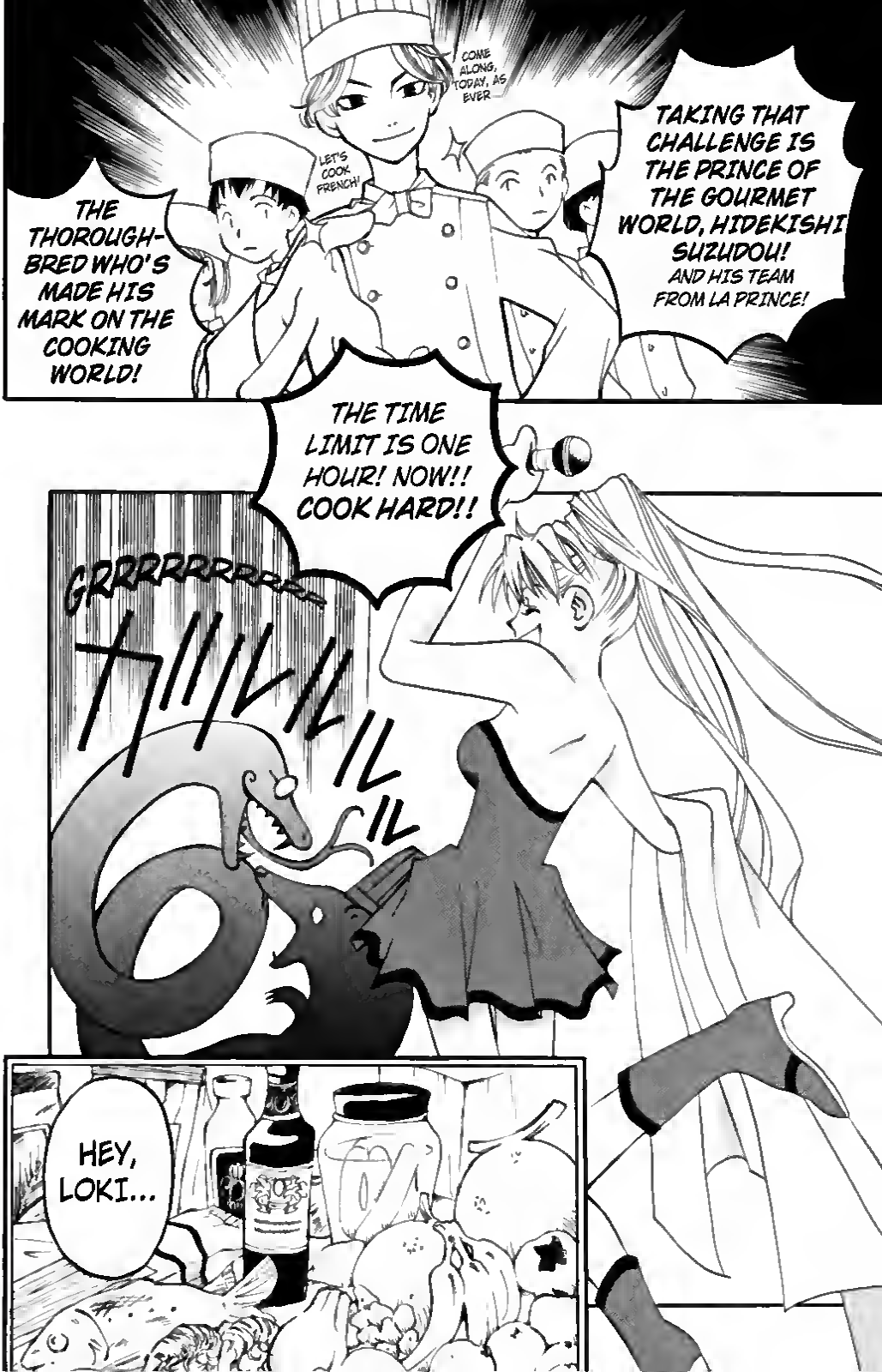
YEEEE~~ I'M SO HONORED TO FINALLY GET THE CHANCE TO MEET YOU~~ ♡
GMP
I'VE BEEN YOUR FAN ON ASGARD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME! I REALLY ADMIRE YOU!
....?
MMNGHH
WH-WHAT THE- WHO ARE YOU!?
WHAT, NO WAY!! HOW COME YOU'RE SO TINY!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT REALLY HANDSOME YOUNG MAN OF A LOKI-SAMA I USED TO KNOW??
NGING ROOM
YOU'RE OVER-DOING IT.


YOU'RE A NORN...
MY NAME IS SKULD, I AM ONE OF THE NORNS. IT'S SO VERY NICE TO MEET YOU!
DOES THAT MEAN THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A CRIME HERE?
WELL, HEIMDALL-SAMA HAS NOT LET ME IN ON HIS PLANS, OF COURSE.
HE ONLY TOLD ME I SHOULD HOST THIS TV PROGRAM FOR HIM!
HEY, LOKI, ARE YOU DONE CHANGING YET?
KCHK
WELL THEN, LOKI-SAMA, I SHALL SEE YOU!


NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT, YOU NEVER WERE VERY STYLISH, THOR.
DUNNN
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
...UGH, I'M NOT INTO SHABBY GUYS LIKE YOU.

ON AIR
THOSE WHO HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER FOOD ARE STOIC, NOT UNLIKE MEN OF THE CLOTH....
THEREFORE THIS KITCHEN CAN ALSO BE CALLED OUR SANCTUARY...

CHEN BATTLE
DE DON!!
AND NOW TODAY'S HOLY WAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!
I'M SHOCKED
TODAY'S CHALLENGERS ARE THE TEAM FROM THE LITTLE BIRD DETECTIVE AGENCY!
DA DUM!


COME ALONG, TODAY, AS EVER
LET'S COOK FRENCH!
THE THOROUGH-BRED WHO'S MADE HIS MARK ON THE COOKING WORLD!
TAKING THAT CHALLENGE IS THE PRINCE OF THE GOURMET WORLD, HIDEKISHI SUZUDOU!
AND HIS TEAM FROM LA PRINCE!
THE TIME LIMIT IS ONE HOUR! NOW!! COOK HARD!!
GRRRRRRRRR...
HEY, LOKI...

WHY DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM...?
I'VE BEEN MEANIN' TO ASK YOU.
WHAT-EVER! WHAT ARE THE NORNS ANYWAY?
YOU ARE SO GROSS
GWSH!
THE SE-COND !?
THAT GIRL WHO'S HOSTING... IS SHE ONE OF THE NORNS HEIMDALL WAS TALKING ABOUT?
I ALREADY MET THE FIRST ONE. SHE'S THE SECOND.
LOKI-SAMA!
LOKI-SAMAAA~
The Norns
THE NORNS ARE THREE NORSE GODDESSES WHO LIVE AT THE WELL OF URD, AND DETERMINE THE FATES OF GODS AND MEN.
NERVOUS
WELL THEN NARUGAMI-SAN, PLEASE TAKE THAT CUCUMBER AND SLICE IT FOR ME?
NERVOUS
NERVOUS
NERVOUS
NARUGAMI-KUN, IF YOU WANT THE PRIZE MONEY, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO WHAT YAMINO-SAN TELLS YOU TO DO.
MA-YU-RA-SAN
MOVED
I'LL DO IT.
UM... WE'RE COOK-ING FRENCH.
I TRIED MAKING SOME MISO SOUP!
LOOKS TASTY

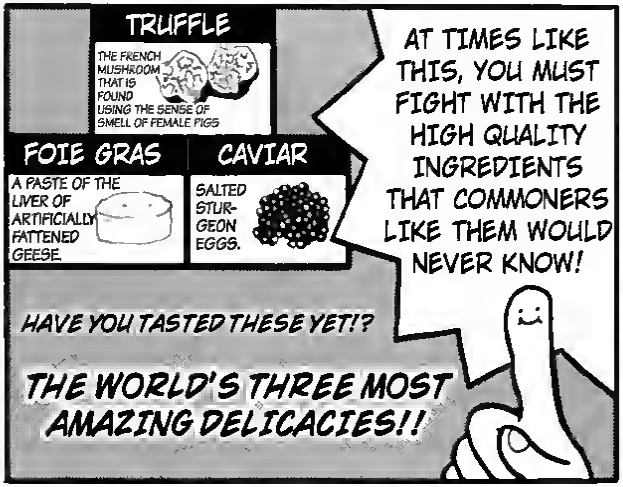
DWOOM
AAAAAA!

ALL RIGHT! TOSS IT, LOKI!
WHIP
HERE

IT'S ALL SMASHED, WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS...?
OOOOHHHH..
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

YAMINO-KUN!
MYSTICAL FALLING STAR WILD DANCE!
COSMOS TECHNIQUE
IN THE MANNER OF A SHOWER OF FALLING STARS.

ARE THEY EVEN TRYING...?
CLAP CLAP
OOH!
CLAP CLAP
WHOA
EEEEE!
CLAP CLAP
AHH!
CLAP CLAP


TRUFFLE
THE FRENCH MUSHROOM THAT IS FOUND USING THE SENSE OF SMELL OF FEMALE PIGS
FOIE GRAS
A PASTE OF THE LIVER OF ARTIFICIALLY FATTENED GEESE.
CAVIAR
SALTED STURGEON EGGS.
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU MUST FIGHT WITH THE HIGH QUALITY INGREDIENTS THAT COMMONERS LIKE THEM WOULD NEVER KNOW!
HAVE YOU TASTED THESE YET!?
THE WORLD'S THREE MOST AMAZING DELICACIES!!

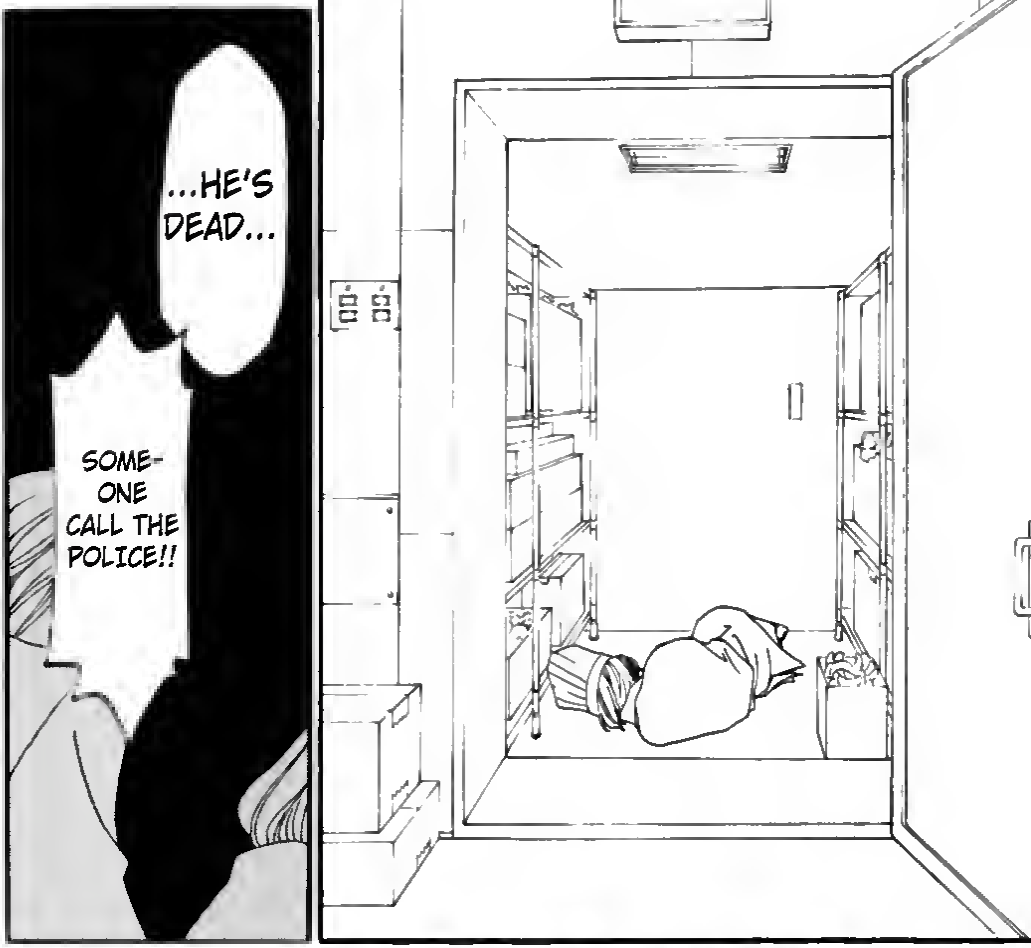
THEY ARE NOT TAKING THIS HOLY BATTLE SERIOUSLY AT ALL...
I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LOSE TO THEM!

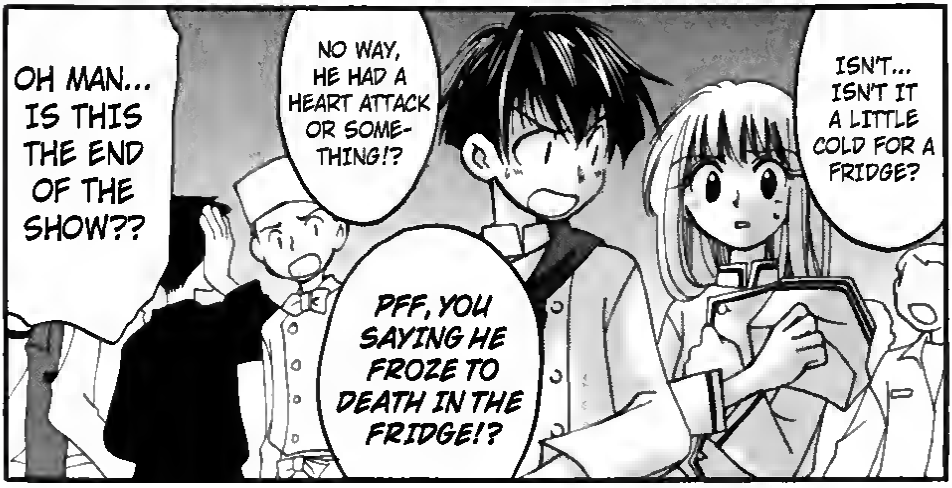
OHHH... I FORGOT TO PREP THOSE...

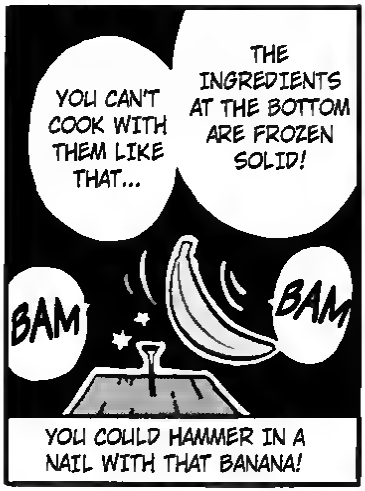
WHAT WAS THAT? YOU'RE SO USELESS!
FINE, I'LL GO GET THEM MYSELF!

HE JUST BECAME A CHEF BECAUSE OF HIS PARENTS' INFLUENCE, HE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE THE TALENT.
AUGH... CHEF SUZUDOU'S TEMPER IS SUCH A PROBLEM.
STOMPSTOMPSTO
I'M GOING TO THE FRIDGE!
WE'RE GETTING IT ALL DONE, BIT BY BIT, YAMINO-SAN!
WAA, IT ALL LOOKS JUST SO DELICIOUS, DOESN'T IT?
HEY SAKASHITA, WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BANDAGE?
I JUST CUT MYSELF A SEC AGO.
MAN, HE SURE IS A SLAVE-DRIVER, ISN'T HE?
...?
I'LL GO SEE HOW HE'S DOING.
CHEF SUZU-DOU'S STILL OFF AT THE FRIDGE, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

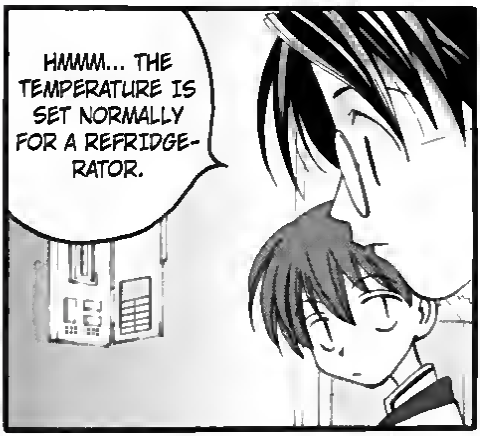
CHEF SUZU-DOU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CREAK
!?
CHEF SUZU-DOU HAS FAIN-TED!!
WHAT IS IT!?


...HE'S DEAD...
SOME-ONE CALL THE POLICE!!


OH MAN... IS THIS THE END OF THE SHOW??
NO WAY, HE HAD A HEART ATTACK OR SOME-THING!?
PFF, YOU SAYING HE FROZE TO DEATH IN THE FRIDGE!?
ISN'T... ISN'T IT A LITTLE COLD FOR A FRIDGE?


YOU CAN'T COOK WITH THEM LIKE THAT...
THE INGREDIENTS AT THE BOTTOM ARE FROZEN SOLID!
BAM
BAM
YOU COULD HAMMER IN A NAIL WITH THAT BANANA!

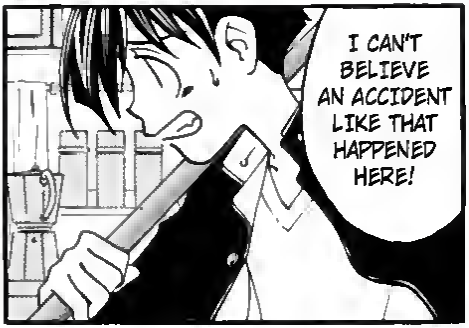
IT REALLY IS QUITE COLD...
IT'S MORE LIKE A FREEZER...


HMMM... THE TEMPERATURE IS SET NORMALLY FOR A REFRIDGERATOR.

HEY, YAMINO-KUN, ISN'T THIS THE TEMPERATURE CONTROL PANEL?

COLD AIR FALLS, BUT TO HAVE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE IN TEMPERATURE... IT'S PRETTY WEIRD!
CHM CHM
I CAN EAT THE BANANAS FROM THE TOP SHELVES JUST FINE.

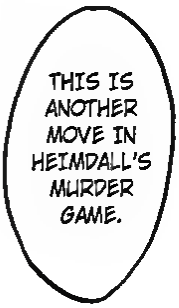
...THE FLOOR IS AS COLD AS ICE.
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON THAT ONLY THE BOTTOM OF THE ROOM IS BEING CHILLED.
!
FWF
FWF
FWF
WOW, WAS THAT COLD.
WE SHOULD REALLY GET OUT OF THIS AREA!!
LOKI-SAMA!!
HOW COULD SOME-ONE...?
AH CHOO!
PWSH
PWSH
PWSH
I SPILLED SOME OF THE WATER ON THE DRY ICE, YOU SEE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO, I CANNOT MAKE IT STOP...!!
PLEASE COME TO MY AID, LOKI-SAMA.....
PAF
PAF
REIYA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


I CAN'T BELIEVE AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT HAPPENED HERE!

AHH, I SEE...

BWUH! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!?
IT WAS NO ACCIDENT, NARUKAMI-KUN.

MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR MURMUR
MUR-DER!?
WHAT !?


THIS IS ANOTHER MOVE IN HEIMDALL'S MURDER GAME.

BY THE WAY,
WHY DID YOU APPLY FOR THAT PROGRAM IN THE FIRST PLACE, YAMINO-KUN?
AHH... WELL, I WANTED TO SEE HOW MY COOKING ABILITIES COMPARED, I SUPPOSE.
OH, WELL THEN, IT'S A SHAME WE WERE FORCED TO STOP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.
NOT AT ALL... I CAME TO REALIZE DURING THE BATTLE...
THAT I REALLY ENJOY JUST COOKING FOR YOU THE BEST, LOKI-SAMA.
HA HA HA... WELL THANK YOU!

IF THE HUMAN BRAIN IS EXPOSED TO AIR WITHOUT ENOUGH OXYGEN IN IT, IT CAN CEASE ALL FUNCTION WITHIN JUST ONE BREATH.
A SINGLE BREATH OF THE AIR IN THE FREEZER WOULD LEAD TO CHEF SUZUDOU'S DEATH.
THE REASON THAT THE KILLER FILLED THE ROOM WITH NITROGEN WAS TO REDUCE THE RATIO OF OXYGEN IN THE ROOM.
THE MURDERER IS WHOEVER ENCOURAGED CHEF SUZUDOU TO GO TO THE REFRIGERATOR.
AND THEN RAN TO THE FRIDGE FIRST, IN ORDER TO VENTILATE IT AND DESTROY ALL OF THE EVIDENCE.

DON'T THROW AROUND FALSE ACCUSA-TIONS!!

THEN COULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR BANDAGED HAND?

IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A BURN, DOES IT NOT?
THIS IS THE FROST-BITE YOU GOT WHILE PUTTING DOWN THE LIQUID NITROGEN, IS IT NOT?
TCH...
!?
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE TRUE HEAD CHEF HERE...
...HE STOLE MY PLACE RIGHT FROM UNDER ME!!

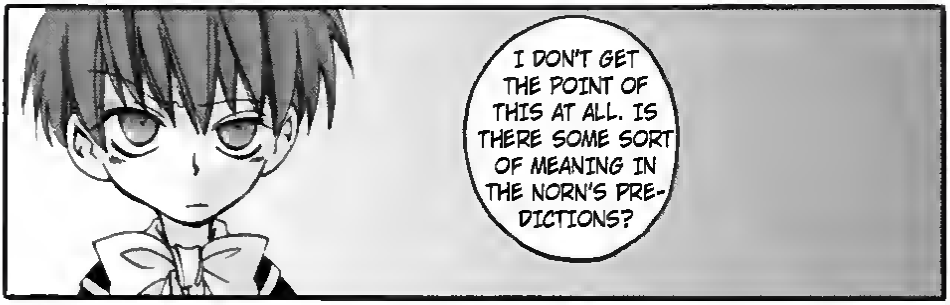
WAS IT REALLY YOU, SAKASHITA!?
HOW COULD YOU...
AHHH, YOU MUST BE THE EVIL DRAGON OF BEOWULF.
WELL THEN, YOU CAME TO RETRIEVE YOUR STOLEN GOLDEN CHALICE, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW PITEOUS... THEN I SHALL RETURN IT TO YOU.

WASH
OH, GOOD-NESS... IT LOOKS LIKE THE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU'VE DONE HAVE ACTIVATED THE CHALICE'S CURSE.
SMILE
I... I...
....

THERE IS ONE WHO INVITES A GREAT CALAMITY

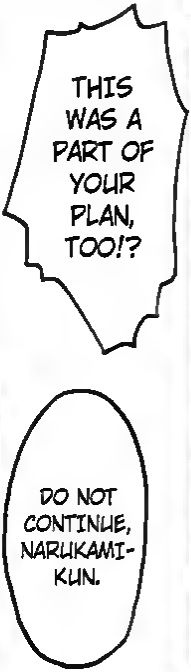
THERE IS ALSO ONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO AVOID THE CALAMITY, THOUGH ITS HAPPENING IS INEVITABLE.

WITH BOTH OF THEM PRESENT, THE CALAMITY IS NOW SURELY FATED TO OCCUR.


I DON'T GET THE POINT OF THIS AT ALL. IS THERE SOME SORT OF MEANING IN THE NORN'S PREDICTIONS?

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HEAR ALL OF THEM, YOUR DESTINY WILL BECOME CLEAR.
THERE ARE THREE NORNS. ONLY ONE MORE LEFT. DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU SLACKING...

LIKE I GIVE A CRAP ABOUT THAT. I CAN'T STAND THE WAY HE'S DOING THINGS HERE.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY TO HIM, IT WILL COME TO NAUGHT.
GRIP


THIS WAS A PART OF YOUR PLAN, TOO!?
DO NOT CONTINUE, NARUKAMI-KUN.

AAAA!!! HEIMDALL!!
DWUH

AH!
WH-
GYAA
I TOLD YOU TO STOP.
YOU'RE PISSIN' ME OFF!!
OH, WELL THEN, I'M QUITE SORRY MY METHODS DON'T MEET YOUR TASTE!
GYAA
HUH!?
SEE YOU LATER LOKI-SAMA. ♡
WOOPS, TIME FOR ME TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL.
IT SEEMS THAT FILMING WILL INDEED STOP...
GAAAHH!!
YOU HAVE A PART-TIME JOB.
WHY DOES A GOD HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL!?!?!?
WAIT JUST A SEC!
LOKI-SAMA.

AHH, IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG DAY...
AUUUGH.... MY 500,000 YEN!!!!
AH, I'M TIRED...

I SHALL WORK HARD TO BECOME BETTER AT COOKING...
WIPE
WIPE

I CAN'T BELIEVE I TRUSTED LOKI... WHAT A FOOL I AM.
IRON PART-TIMER RULE 10: IF A JOB LOOKS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS!!
DON'T JUST TRUST PEOPLE FOR NO REASON.
SAD
SAD

TOMORROW I SHALL START SPECIAL TRAINING WITH MINO-SAN!

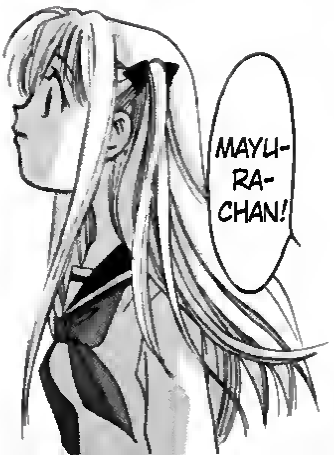
...AH, THAT'S UNUSUAL...

NOPE, I'M FINE, THANKS!
SEE Y.
HM? ARE YOU GOING HOME TOO, MAYURA?
SHALL WE COME ALONG?

BY THE WAY,
WHY DID YOU APPLY FOR THAT PROGRAM IN THE FIRST PLACE, YAMINO-KUN?
AHH... WELL, I WANTED TO SEE HOW MY COOKING ABILITIES COMPARED, I SUPPOSE.
OH, WELL THEN, IT'S A SHAME WE WERE FORCED TO STOP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.
NOT AT ALL... I CAME TO REALIZE DURING THE BATTLE...
THAT I REALLY ENJOY JUST COOKING FOR YOU THE BEST, LOKI-SAMA.
HA HA HA... WELL THANK YOU!

....I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT LOKI-KUN REALLY IS...
AND IN THE END I DIDN'T ASK HIM... AGAIN.
SOME HOW I FEEL HUNGRY NOW...!
WELL THEN. I'LL TAKE THE CHANCE TO TEST MY ABILITIES THIS VERY NIGHT!

JUST COMING HOME FROM CRAM SCHOOL!
OH, KAZUMI-KUN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?


MAYU-RA-CHAN!

THERE IS JUST ONE NORN LEFT TO COLLECT A PROPHECY FROM...
WHAT IS HEIMDALL PLOTTING THIS TIME....?
YOU SEEM TO BE LOST IN THOUGHT, MAYURA-CHAN..?
SHALL I TAKE A GUESS?
WHAT?

NIGHT 18
AT CASINO HEIMDALL
(PART 1)

I WONDER WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MAYURA-SAN...
HMMM....
SHE HASN'T SHOWN UP HERE IN A NUMBER OF DAYS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK LOKI-SAMA...?
KA-CHK
MYSTERY!
YOU SHOULD TRY THEM ON!!
I'M DISAPPOINTED YOU'RE SO EASY TO EN-COURAGE INTO AWKWARD THINGS....
HO HO HO
SHE LEFT THEM HERE. I WAS THINKING SHE'D COME AND GET THEM RIGHT AWAY, BUT...
OH MY, AREN'T THOSE MAYURA'S SWIRLY GLASSES?

DON'T BE SO SHOCK-ED....
NARUGAMI-SAN AND MAYURA-PAPA-SAN!
TADA
MISJERY
GWAH!!!!
HEYYY, LOKI....
WHAT?
MAYURA HASN'T BEEN HOME?
YEAH, I RAN INTO THIS GUY IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, JUST MUM-BLIN' "WHERE'S MAYURAAAA?" HE'S PRETTY OUT OF IT, THIS OLD GUY.
WEARY
ASHEN
WEARY

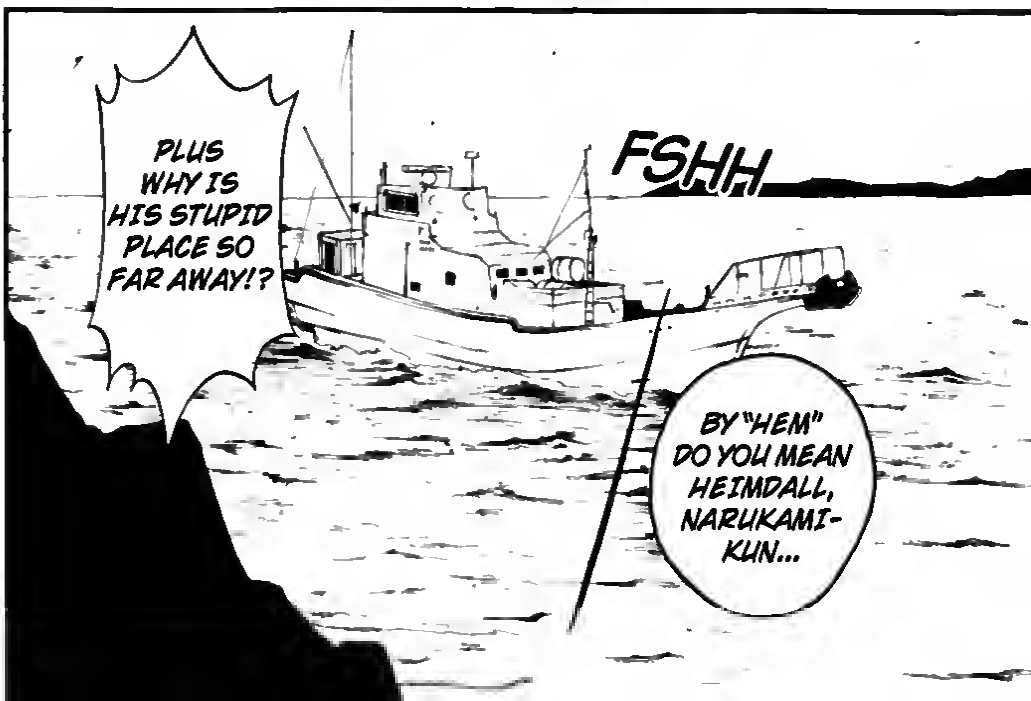
SHE MAY BE A BIT OF A TOMBOY, THAT GIRL...
BUT SHE'S NEVER BEEN THE TYPE WHO COULD BE CAPABLE OF MAKING ME WORRY THIS MUCH ON PURPOSE...
GLANCE GLANCE
NOT HERE EITHER...
DID THE TWO OF YOU HAVE A FIGHT?

MUTTER
SOMETHING HAS TO HAVE HAPPENED TO HER....
MUTTER

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS PATHETIC OLD DUDE...
TUT
WAI-
FLP
TUT
I'M COMING ALONG TO HELP YOU FIND 'ER.
MAYURA'S DISAP-PEARED...?

WHAT THE HECK, LOKI!
SHRIP!
WAIT A SEC, NARU-KAMI-KUN!!
UHH... PROBABLY... A LITTLE BIT AGO...?
NARU-KAMI-KUN, WHEN DID YOU...?
HUH?
HUH?
KAZUMI HIGASHI-YAMA... IT'S A LETTER FROM HEIMDALL!?
KAZUMI HIG
OH, I GUESS I WAS PRETTY CARELESS, SORRY ABOUT THAAAAT!!
BLUUSH
AT THIS POINT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WE CAN TRUST, EH, NARUGAMI-SAN...
I MEAN, REALLY...
...YOU SURE ARE SOMETHING... ACTING LIKE A BIG IMPORTANT GUY, NOT SWEATING THE SMALL STUFF.
PFF

PSH PSH PSH
"MAYURA'S AT MY SUMMER HOME, SO WHY DON;T YOU ALL COME BY AND PLAY?" ♡
IS WHAT IT SAYS!? WHAT THE HECK IS THIS HEM GUY THINKING?


PLUS WHY IS HIS STUPID PLACE SO FAR AWAY!?
FSHH
BY "HEM" DO YOU MEAN HEIMDALL, NARUKAMI-KUN...

AYUP... LOOKON' LOKE THEM CLOUDS ARE TAKIN' A TURN FOR THE WORST.
GLOOMY
KIND OF A SINISTER LOOKING PLACE....
HM, IS HEIMDALL'S SUMMER HOME ON THAT ISLAND OVER THERE?
AND THEN THE SEAS GOT ROUGH !!!
SHHH
WH-WHOA
AAUUGH
THE WIRE-LESS LOST RADIO CON-TACT!!
YEH WITH DA WEATHER LIKE DIS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME GET YA.
PII PII PII PII PIIII
PWI
KSH
THE WIND BEGAN TO BLOW!
FWOOH
WHAD I TELL YA
PFF YOU'RE SEA-SICK? YOU'RE MORE DELICATE THAN I THOUGHT...
....I DON'T CARE ANYMORE, LET'S JUST GET BACK ON LAND...
AWN
GLG

...I KNEW IT...
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LEFT MAYURA ALONE...
HERE YA ARE.

VER-
DAN-
DI!!

MAN, LOKI AND HEM, BOTH OF YOU! WHY DO YOU BOTH GET LUXURIOUS CASTLES TO LIVE IN!?
EXCUSE UUUS!!

I, THE GREAT LOKI-SAMA, HAVE ARRIVED, HEM!!!!!
I'M GETTIN' PRETTY PISSED OFF, MAYBE I'LL BREAK ONE OF THESE FANCY STATUES!

YEEK
WELCOME.

LOKI-SAMA, YOUR ROOM IS THE "THREE OF HEARTS," RIGHT HERE.
AND NARUGAMI-SAMA, YOURS IS THE ONE ACROSS FROM HERE, THE EIGHT OF CLUBS.
THIS IS A NORN!?
YES. THE FIRST I MET.
AFTER YOU ARE SETTLED IN, PLEASE COME TO THE "KING OF SPADES" ROOM, DOWN THE HALL.
VER-DANDI...
WHY ARE YOU NORNS LENDING YOUR AID TO HEIM-DALL?
FWSH FWSH FWSH
THERE'S A CHEER DROP OUT THE WINDOW!! WHAT A GREAT VIEW!
WATCHING OVER THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF GODS AND MEN IS YOUR JOB, ISN'T IT?
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE IMPORTANT YOU MUST DO AS WELL?

LOKI-SAMA...
PLEASE SAVE THAT GIRL.
BWUHHH
THIS IS...
HEY LOKI, THE OCEAN'S PRETTY GREAT!
A CASINO!

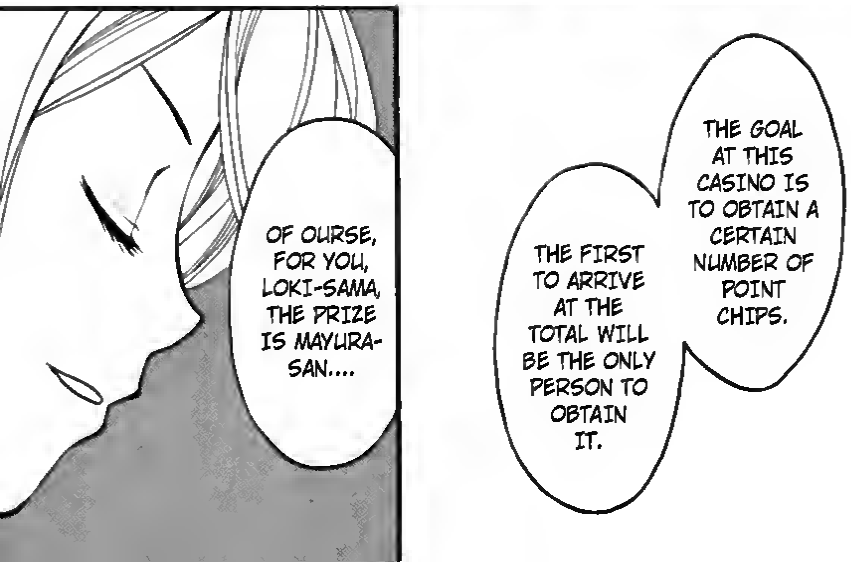
WHY'S THERE A CASINO IN HERE!?
DEALER MUST DREW TO
INSURANCE P
Black Jo
MAYU-RA!
IS THIS WHERE DAIDOUJI I....
GRRR
HEY, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, DAIDOUJI!?
YOUR POPS IS WORRIED SICK!!!
GRRR

BUSINESSLIKE SMILE!!
BOW
AH, A NEW CUSTOMER HAS ARRIVED. PLEASE ENJOY YOUR TIME HERE.
WHAT... WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER!?
THAT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
SHE'S BEING CONTROLLED BY HEIM-DALL.
GWEHH
AHHHH LOKILOKI LOKIIII-I LOVE YOU
DSHH!!
HEE HEE, IT'S A SECRET!
WHERE IS... HEIM-DALL?
GLOMMM
S... SKULD!!
YES ?

WELCOME, LOKI-SAMA, WE ARE QUITE GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.
I AM THE LAST PRESENTER YOU WILL MEET.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED US HERE, IT CAN'T BE A SECRET...
WHOA! ALL THREE NORNS, ASSEMBLED
URD!
HMMM... THE LAST, EH?
WHO ARE ALL THE PEOPLE HERE?
THEY ARE THE PEOPLE HEIMDALL-SAMA HAS INVITED TO JOIN US HERE.

THEY WISH TO OBTAIN "THE GOLDEN APPLE."
THEY ALL HAVE A SINGLE GOAL.

GOLDEN APPLE!?


OF OURSE, FOR YOU, LOKI-SAMA, THE PRIZE IS MAYURA-SAN....
THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AT THE TOTAL WILL BE THE ONLY PERSON TO OBTAIN IT.
THE GOAL AT THIS CASINO IS TO OBTAIN A CERTAIN NUMBER OF POINT CHIPS.

GAMBLING IS AGAINST THE LAW FOR MINORS.
WELL IF THAT'S ALL, THEN LET'S GET A MOVE ON, LOKI!
WOO 400!
YOU'RE AWFULLY EXCITED...
...HEIMDALL, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN HERE?
IN OTHER WORDS...
AND I HAVE TO EARN THEM BY WINNING AT THIS CASINO, THEN.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO PLAY IT, NARUKAMI-KUN?
WHOOP
WHOOP
LET'S PLAY BLACK-JACK!!
LET'S GET THAT GOLDEN APPLE!!

HOW TO BLACKJACK
THEN I'LL EXPLAIN THEM FOR YOU.
RULES !?

FUNDAMENTAL RULES FOR BLACKJACK

★ REMOVE THE JOKERS AND USE A DECK OF 52 CARDS.

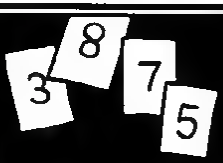
2～10	POINT VALUES ARE THE NUMBER ON THE CARD.
J～K	10 POINTS.
A	EITHER 1 POINT OR 11 POINTS.

THE DEALER DEALS CARDS FACE-UP, AND YOU CAN GET AS MANY AS YOU LIKE AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GO OVER 21.

THE POINT IS TO GET AS CLOSE TO 21 AS POSSIBLE!!

IF YOU HAVE CARDS THAT TOTAL MORE THAN 21....

BUST



YOU LOSE ALL THE CHIPS YOU'VE BET.

AN ACE AND A FACE CARD EQUALING 21.

BLACKJACK

YEP, THIS IS THE BEST HAND. YOU GET DOUBLE THE CHIPS.

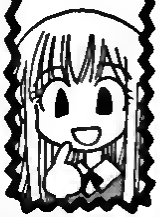
IF YOU GET CLOSER TO 21 THAN THE DEALER...

EVERYTHING IS BASED ON GETTING CLOSER TO 21 THAN THE DEALER! SO GIVE IT A TRY!!

-IF THE SUM OF THE CARDS IS 16 OR BELOW, DEAL ANOTHER CARD.

-IF THE SUM OF THE CARDS IS 17 OR ABOVE, STOP DEALING.

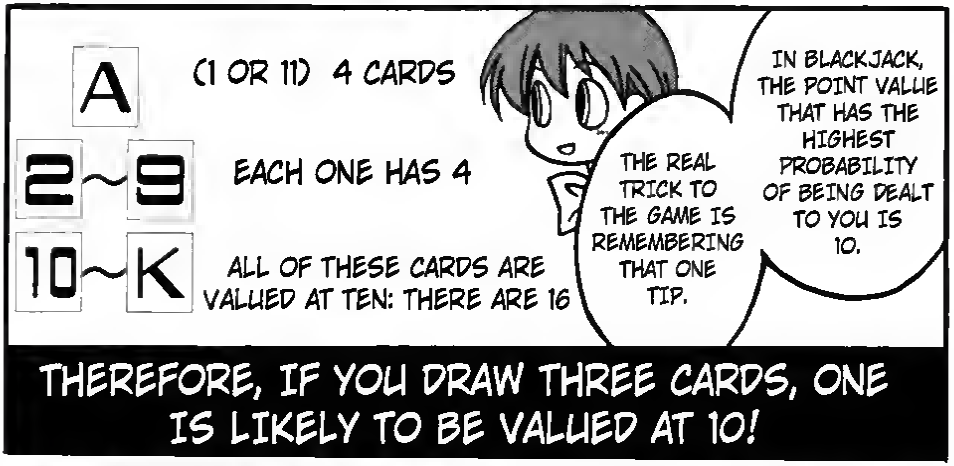
DEALER'S **RULES**



THOUGH DEALERS ARE IN CONTROL OF THE PROCESS OF THE GAME, THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO MAKE INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENTS

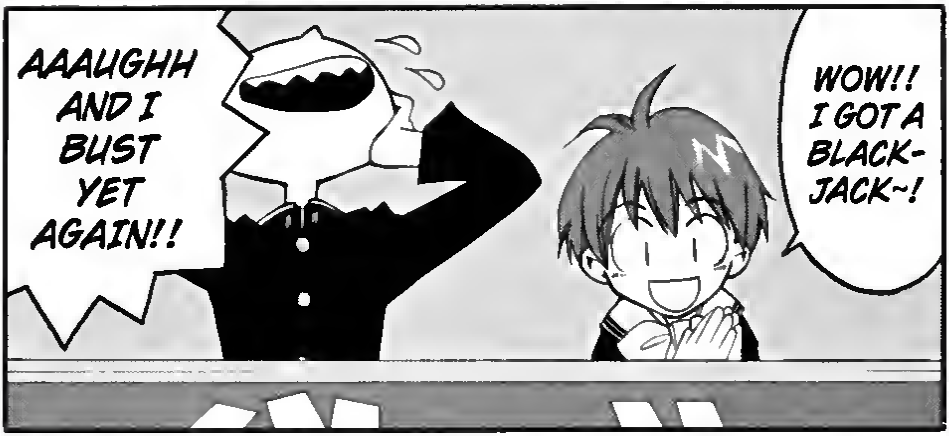
HMMM, I'LL TAKE ANOTHER CARD.
SUM
11
CHK
OF COURSE I'LL TAKE ANOTHER CARD!
SUM
14
HEH HEH HEH... THIS STUFF GETS ME SO FIRED UP!
.....
YOU GOTTA CALL IT A REAL MAN'S GAME!!
RUB
RUB
SUM
24
WHAAAAA!?
HOW COME I SUD-DENLY GOT A FACE CARD OUT OF NO-WHERE!!!
THAT'S CALLED "BUSTING OUT" AND IT'S THE RESULT YOU TRY TO AVOID THE MOST.
GWAHHHHHH!

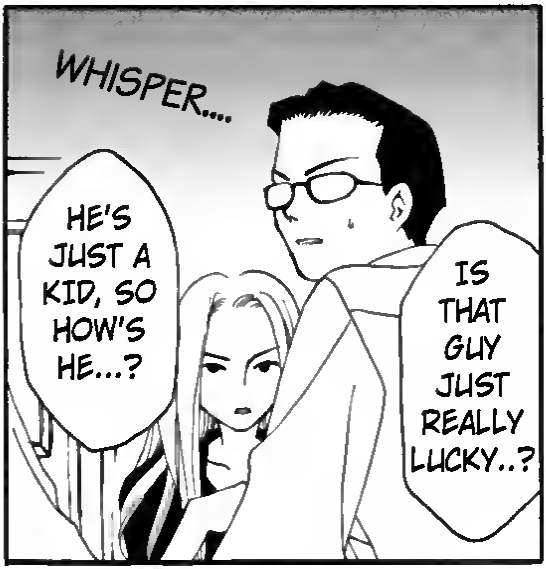
GETTING YOU TO POINTLESSLY GO AFTER A 21 AND THEN GO BUST IS ONE OF THE MANY STRATEGIES THE DEALER HAS.
IF IT'S MORE LIKELY YOU'LL LOSE THAN WIN, THERE'S NO NEED TO STAY IN THE MATCH, YOU KNOW.


A (1 OR 11) 4 CARDS
2~9 EACH ONE HAS 4
10~K ALL OF THESE CARDS ARE VALUED AT TEN: THERE ARE 16
THE REAL TRICK TO THE GAME IS REMEMBERING THAT ONE TIP.
IN BLACKJACK, THE POINT VALUE THAT HAS THE HIGHEST PROBABILITY OF BEING DEALT TO YOU IS 10.
THEREFORE, IF YOU DRAW THREE CARDS, ONE IS LIKELY TO BE VALUED AT 10!

"I DON'T NEED ANY MORE" IS "STAND."
SH SH
THAT SAID, "GIVE ME ANOTHER CARD" IS "HIT."
TAP TAP
THAT'S WHY YOUR BEST BET IS TO ALWAYS GO AHEAD WHEN YOU DRAW AN ACE.
HEH

I'M NOT SURE IF I GET IT OR NOT.
HUHHH
DO YOU GET IT?

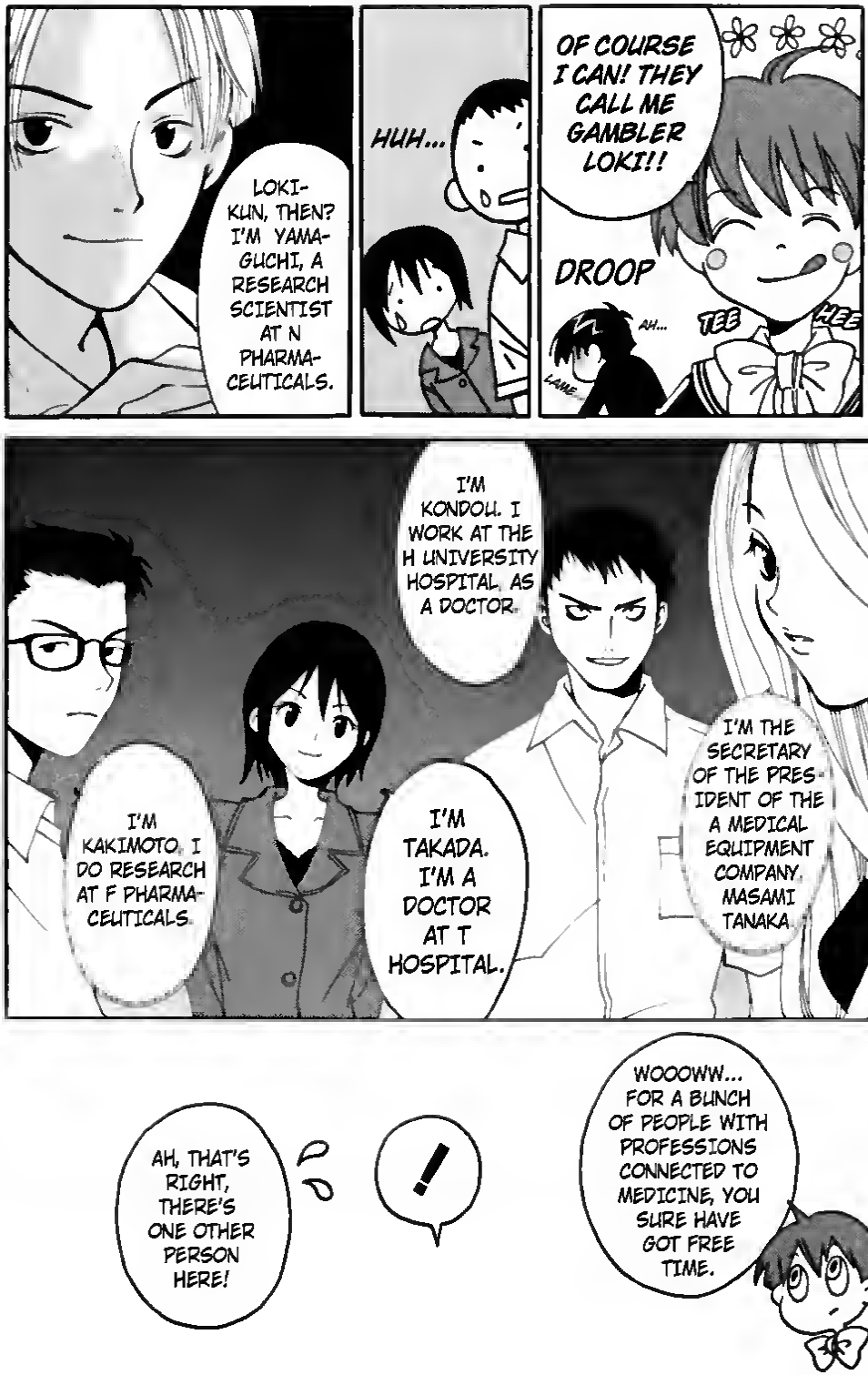

AAAUGHH AND I BUST YET AGAIN!!
WOW!! I GOT A BLACK-JACK~!


WHISPER....
HE'S JUST A KID, SO HOW'S HE...?
IS THAT GUY JUST REALLY LUCKY..?

YAYY I WIN AGAIN!!
HUHH!! WHY AM I THE ONE WHO BUSTS ALL THE TIME!?

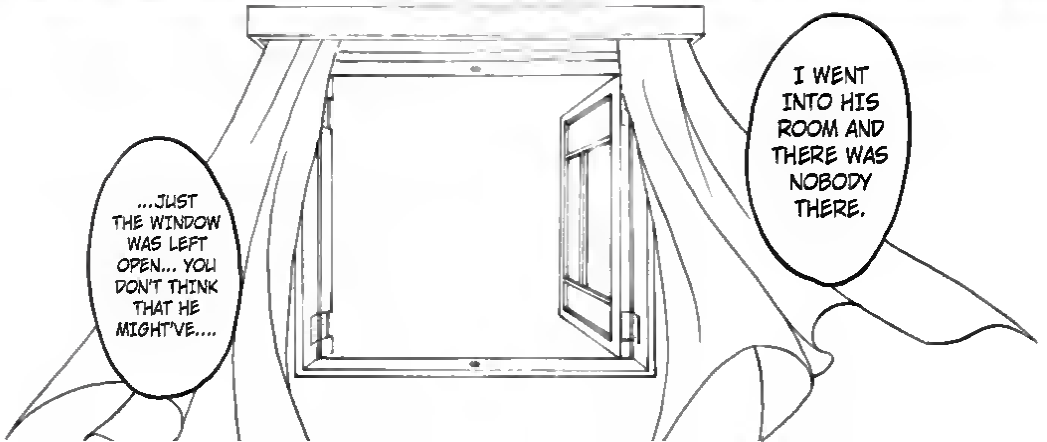
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!
I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE YESTERDAY AND WE'RE ALREADY NECK AND NECK!
ARE YOU COUNTING CARDS OR SOMETHING?
HE'S JUST A KID, THERE'S NO WAY HE KNOWS HOW!

WE ARE CLOSING THE CASINO FOR THE DAY.
NO ONE HAS HIT THE DESIGNATED POINT TOTAL YET TODAY, SO THE POINTS WILL BE ROLLING OVER TO TOMORROW.

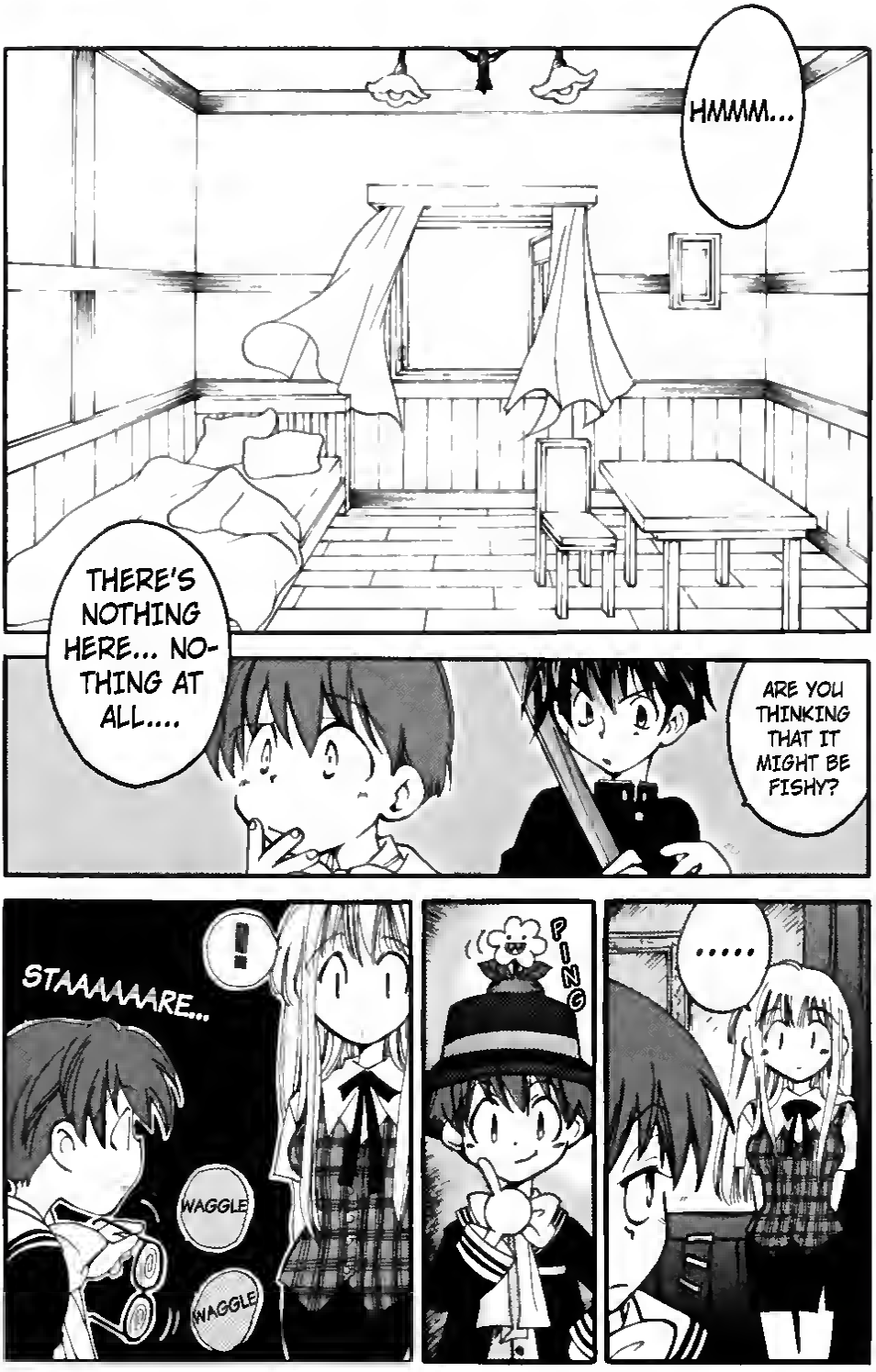

LOKI-KUN, THEN? I'M YAMAGUCHI, A RESEARCH SCIENTIST AT N PHARMACEUTICALS.
HUH...
OF COURSE I CAN! THEY CALL ME GAMBLER LOKI!!
DROOP
AH...
TEE
HEE
LAME
I'M KONDOU. I WORK AT THE H UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AS A DOCTOR.
I'M THE SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE A MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY. MASAMI TANAKA
I'M KAKIMOTO. I DO RESEARCH AT F PHARMACEUTICALS.
I'M TAKADA. I'M A DOCTOR AT T HOSPITAL.
WOOOWW... FOR A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITH PROFESSIONS CONNECTED TO MEDICINE, YOU SURE HAVE GOT FREE TIME.
!
AH, THAT'S RIGHT, THERE'S ONE OTHER PERSON HERE!

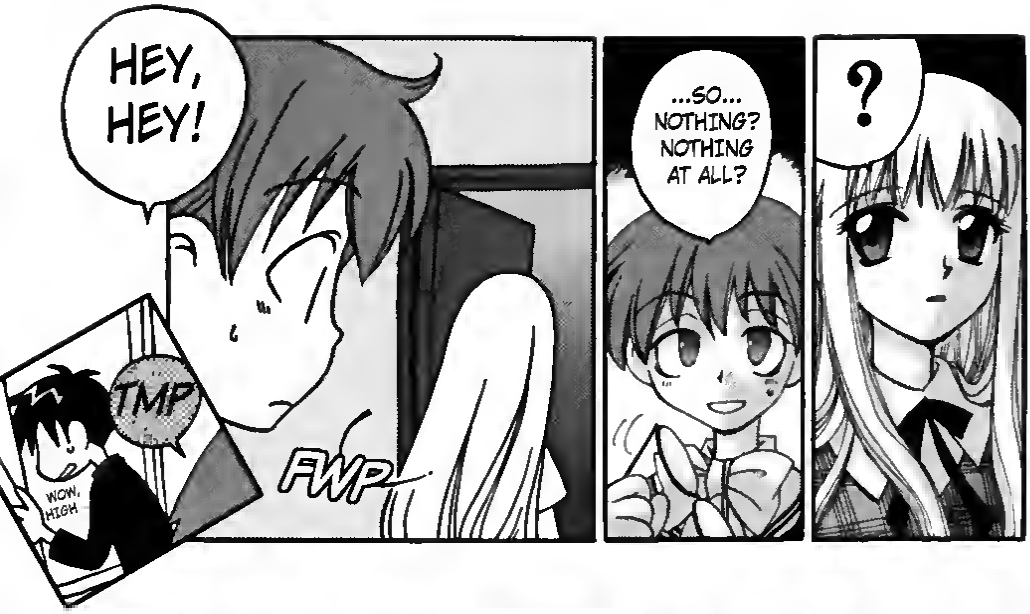
ACTUALLY, I'M A LITTLE WORRIED... LET'S GO CHECK UP ON HIM.
BUT TODAY HE HASN'T COME OUT OF HIS ROOM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
MIYAMURA WAS THE TOP SCORING GUY YESTERDAY.
?
SO WHY DOES EVERYONE WANT THE "GOLDEN APPLE" SO MUCH?
WELL, IT'S GOLD, DUH? I WANT IT TOO!

HEY, COME OVER HERE EVERY-ONE!!
MIYA-MURA'S...


I WENT INTO HIS ROOM AND THERE WAS NOBODY THERE.
...JUST THE WINDOW WAS LEFT OPEN... YOU DON'T THINK THAT HE MIGHT'VE....

WHAT SHOULD WE DO...? ARE WE JUST GOING TO LEAVE THIS LIE?
BUT YESTERDAY HE WAS ON THE TOP OF THE POINT CHART. WHY WOULD HE KILL HIMSELF...?
HE KILLED HIMSELF?
THERE'S NO REAL REASON FOR US TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
W-WAIT JUST A SECOND! HOW CAN YOU JUST LEAVE IT!?
DIDN'T A MAN JUST DIE!!?
.....
OH WELL, I GUESS...


HMMM...
THERE'S NOTHING HERE... NOTHING AT ALL....
ARE YOU THINKING THAT IT MIGHT BE FISHY?
STAAAAAARE...
!
WAGGLE
WAGGLE
PING
.....


HEY, HEY!
TMP
WOW, HIGH
FWP
...SO... NOTHING? NOTHING AT ALL?
?

EVEN BEING CONTROLLED BY HEIM-DALL...
....IT DOESN'T GIVE THAT MAYURA THE RIGHT TO BE SO UNSET-TLING.
..MA YURA?

OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT!
IF SHE WAS NORMAL, SHE'D SAY, "YEEE, LOKI-KUN, A DISTANT ISLAND AND A FANCY SUMMER COTTAGE... SMELLS OF..."
MYSTERY!!

WHOAAA!
CRAAAAASH!!

MADE IT...
...M-
CONK
HR GLE!
!
TA-TUM
WAIT, THAT'S IT!!
JEEZ, WHY IS SOMEONE AFTER ME ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
THA WAZZA SHOCK..
D-DIDN'T MAKE..
FWUMP
IT.

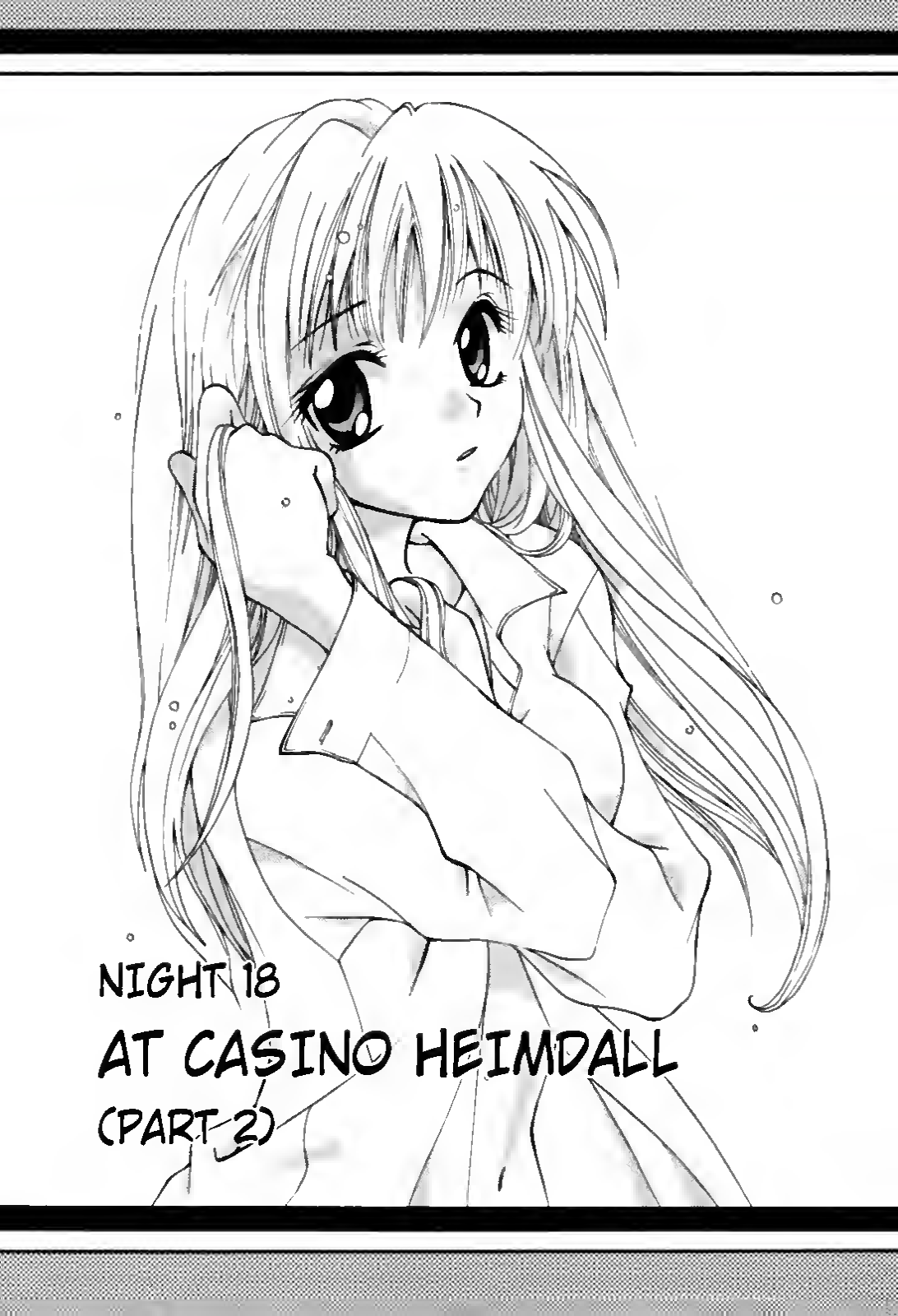
HAHAHA... SEEING LOKI LIKE THAT... IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE BEST.
EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY GO ALONG WITH THE PLAN...
OH WELL... THE BEST IS YET TO COME.
...KI
HEY! WAKE UP, LOKI!

SLIIIDE
UM, HEY NARU-KAMI-KUN WHAT DO YOU THINK, LOOKING AT THIS SCENE?
WH WHA!?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP HERE!?
UNH..
HE'S STAYING IN "SEVEN OF DIAMONDS," WHAT DO YOU NEED?
URD, WHERE IS YAMA-GUCHI'S ROOM?
PAFF
AS SOON AS I FIG-URED OUT...
...THAT SOMEONE WAS TAR-GETING ME, I KNEW THERE WAS ONE OTHER PERSON WHO WAS IN DANGER...
AH...
PAFF
LET'S GO, NARU-KAMI-KUN.
TMP
TMPT

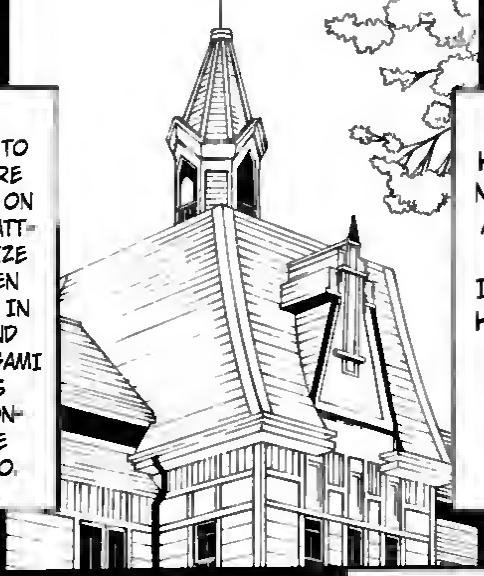
THE ROOMS ARE NUMBERED WITH 2, 4, 1, 5 AND 3 ON THE RIGHT... AND 9, 10, 7, 6, AND 8 ON THE LEFT?
WHAT A WEIRD NUMBERING SCHEME...
BY THE WAY...
WHY IS YAMA-GUCHI-SAN SUPPOSED TO BE IN TROUBLE, LOKI?

NOK
NOK
AND TODAY, I WAS TARGETED... LOGICALLY SPEAKING, THE ONE WHO HAS THE SAME AMOUNT OF POINTS AS ME, YAMAGUCHI-SAN, IS ALSO IN DANGER.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THEM SAYING THAT THE MAN WHO FELL INTO THE OCEAN A BIT AGO HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF POINTS AS OF YESTERDAY?
SILENCE
WASN'T THAT DAIDOU-JI'S VOICE?
IS MAYURA NEXT DOOR...?
AH...

...MA-
YURA...
!!!



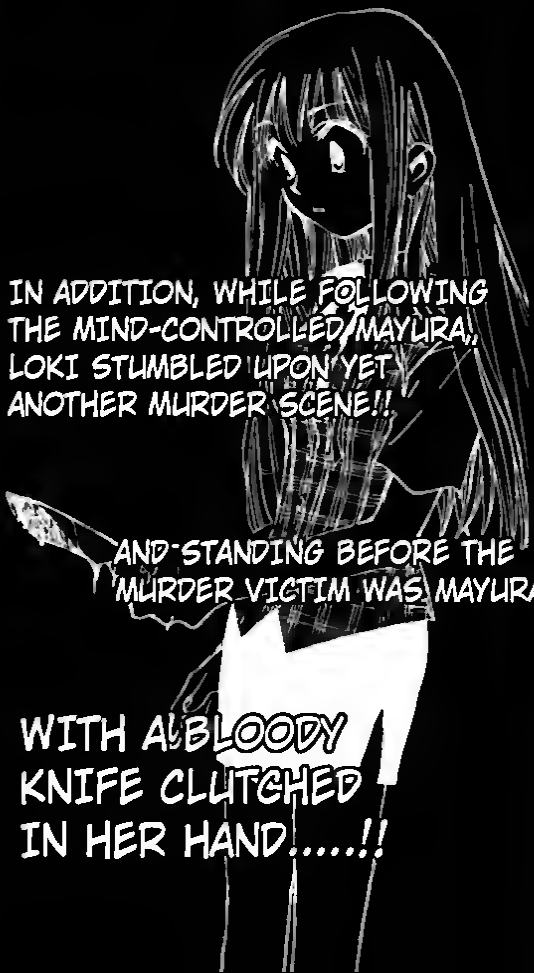
NIGHT 18
AT CASINO HEIMDALL
(PART 2)



THEY ARE TOLD BY THE NORN WHO COMES TO GREET THEM THAT THERE ARE OTHERS GATHERED ON THE ISLAND WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO WIN A PRIZE KNOWN AS THE "GOLDEN APPLE" AT THE CASINO IN HEIMDALL'S HOME. AND THERE, LOKI AND NARUGAMI SEE THAT MAYURA IS UNDER HEIMDALL'S CONTROL, ACTING AS THE DEALER AT THE CASINO.

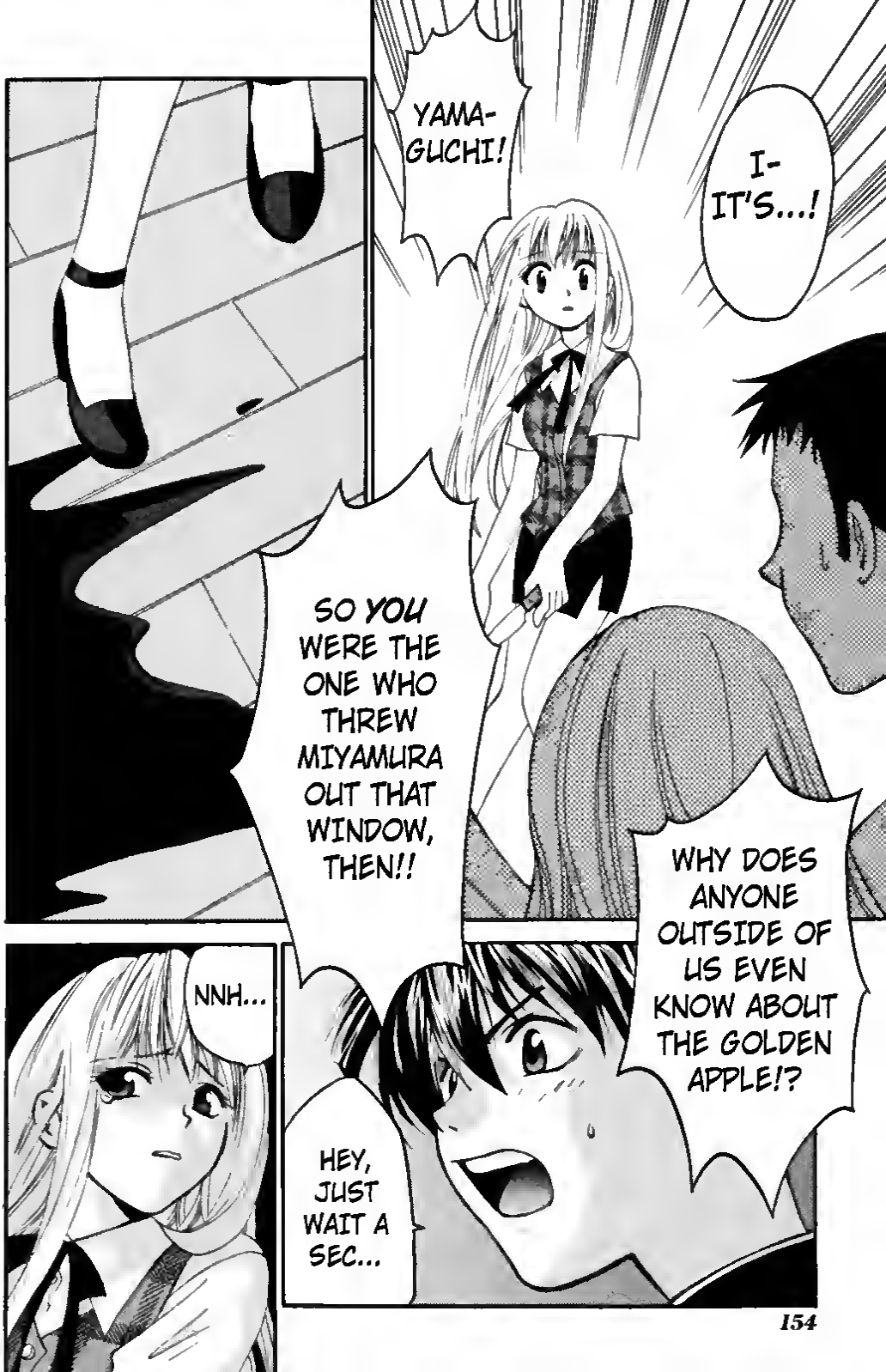
HEIMDALL KIDNAPPED MAYURA AND TOOK HER AWAY TO AN ISLAND, WHERE HE WAITED FOR LOKI AND NARUGAMI TO COME AFTER HER.

IN ORDER TO GET MAYURA BACK, LOKI MUST JOIN THE BATTLE AT THE CASINO AND WIN AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE.

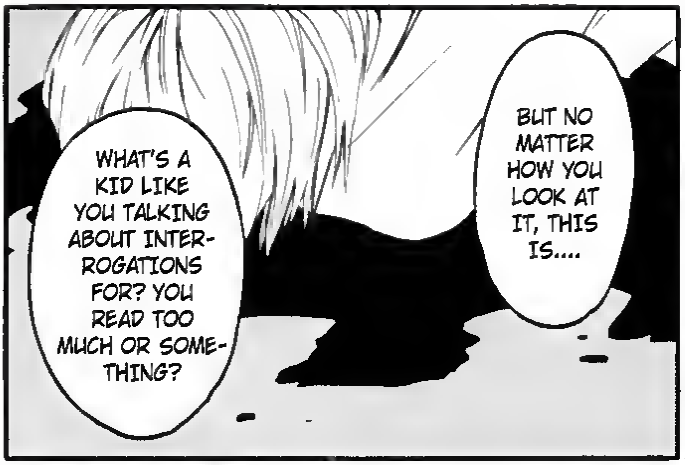

IN ADDITION, WHILE FOLLOWING THE MIND-CONTROLLED MAYURA, LOKI STUMBLED UPON YET ANOTHER MURDER SCENE!!
AND STANDING BEFORE THE MURDER VICTIM WAS MAYURA...
WITH A BLOODY KNIFE CLUTCHED IN HER HAND.....!!

HOWEVER, THAT NIGHT, THE BODY OF THE FORMER LEADER, MIYAMURA, WAS FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFFS OUTSIDE THE MANOR. WAS IT AN ACCIDENT? WAS IT MURDER? AND WHAT WILL COME OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, WHO HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO SHOW THE DEPTHS OF THEIR DESIRES!?

D-DAI-DOUJI... WHY DO YOU HAVE A KNIFE...?
.....
....HUH?
AAAAAA AAAAA AAAA!!
WHAT'S THAT!? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
STOMP
STOMP


YAMA-GUCHI!
I-IT'S...!
SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO THREW MIYAMURA OUT THAT WINDOW, THEN!!
WHY DOES ANYONE OUTSIDE OF US EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE GOLDEN APPLE!?
HEY, JUST WAIT A SEC...
NNH...

STARE
SNF WAHH..
I'D RATHER YOU NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THIS.
SHE HAS NO MOTIVE, DOES SHE?
.....
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT APPLE OF YOURS, AND NEITHER DOES ANYONE OUTSIDE YOUR LITTLE GROUP, DO THEY?
SO WHAT REASON WOULD ANYONE BUT YOU HAVE TO WANT IT!?
YOU DIDN'T REALLY KILL THIS MAN, DID YOU, MAYURA?
SHAKE
SHAKE


WHAT'S A KID LIKE YOU TALKING ABOUT INTERROGATIONS FOR? YOU READ TOO MUCH OR SOMETHING?
BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS IS....

AT ANY RATE, LET'S ALL CALM DOWN AND ASK HER WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

!
I'M FINE WITH THAT, FEWER COMPETITORS.

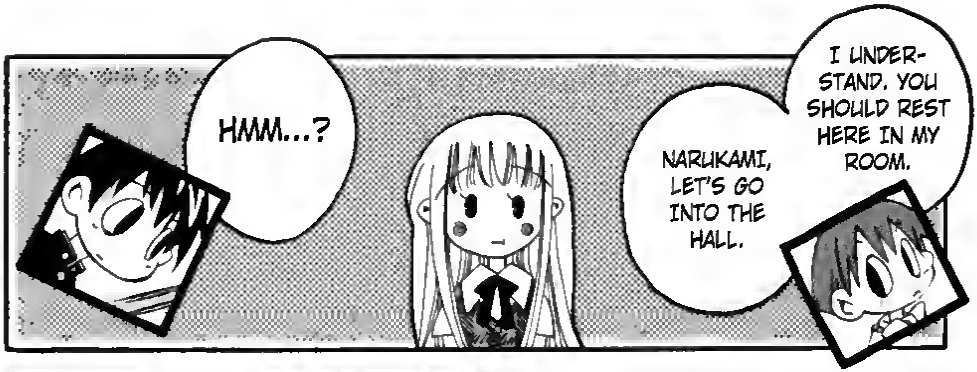
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO. TWO PEOPLE ARE ALREADY DEAD.
I'M GONNA QUIT THIS CASINO GAME.

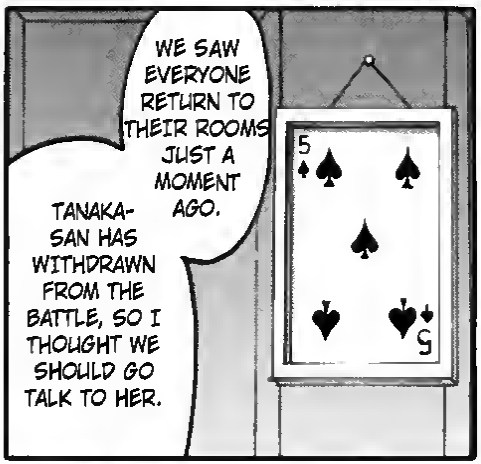
3
3
THESE PEOPLE DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT ANYTHING! LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ROOMS!
UGH
THIS IS AWFUL

WHEN YOU RETURNED TO YOUR ROOM, THERE WAS SOMEONE LYING ON THE FLOOR, AND YOU TRIED TO WAKE HIM AND PULLED OUT THE KNIFE.
FSH
WHILE YOU WERE STANDING THERE IN SHOCK, THE TWO OF US CAME IN... DOES THAT SOUND ABOUT RIGHT?
NOD
SQUEEZE

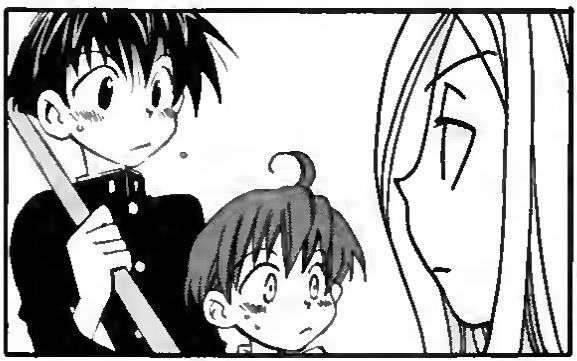
AND I'M SURE YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE GOLDEN APPLE...
NO, I'M JUST A DEALER...

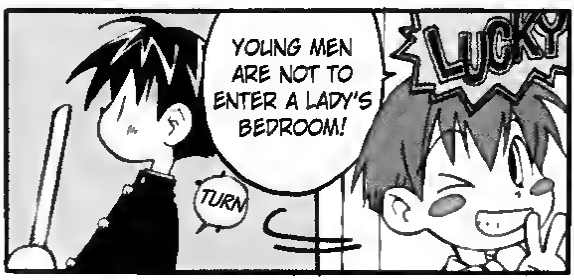
THE HALLWAY WAS VERY DIM SO I DON'T ACTUALLY REMEMBER WHICH CARD WAS ON THE DOOR...
WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE STRANGE IN ROOM 10?
I FEEL A LITTLE BIT LIKE THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, TOO...

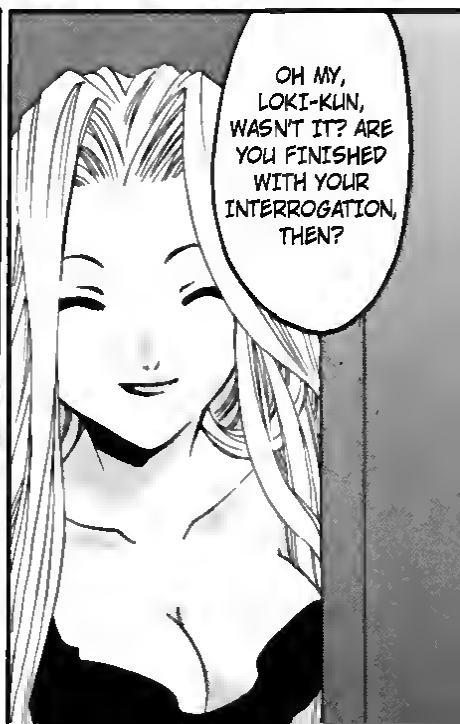

HMM...?
NARUKAMI, LET'S GO INTO THE HALL.
I UNDERSTAND. YOU SHOULD REST HERE IN MY ROOM.


WE SAW EVERYONE RETURN TO THEIR ROOMS JUST A MOMENT AGO.
TANAKA-SAN HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE BATTLE, SO I THOUGHT WE SHOULD GO TALK TO HER.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, LOKI?
I DON'T WANT TO BE TARGETED AGAIN, SO COME BE MY BODY-GUARD, PLEASE.

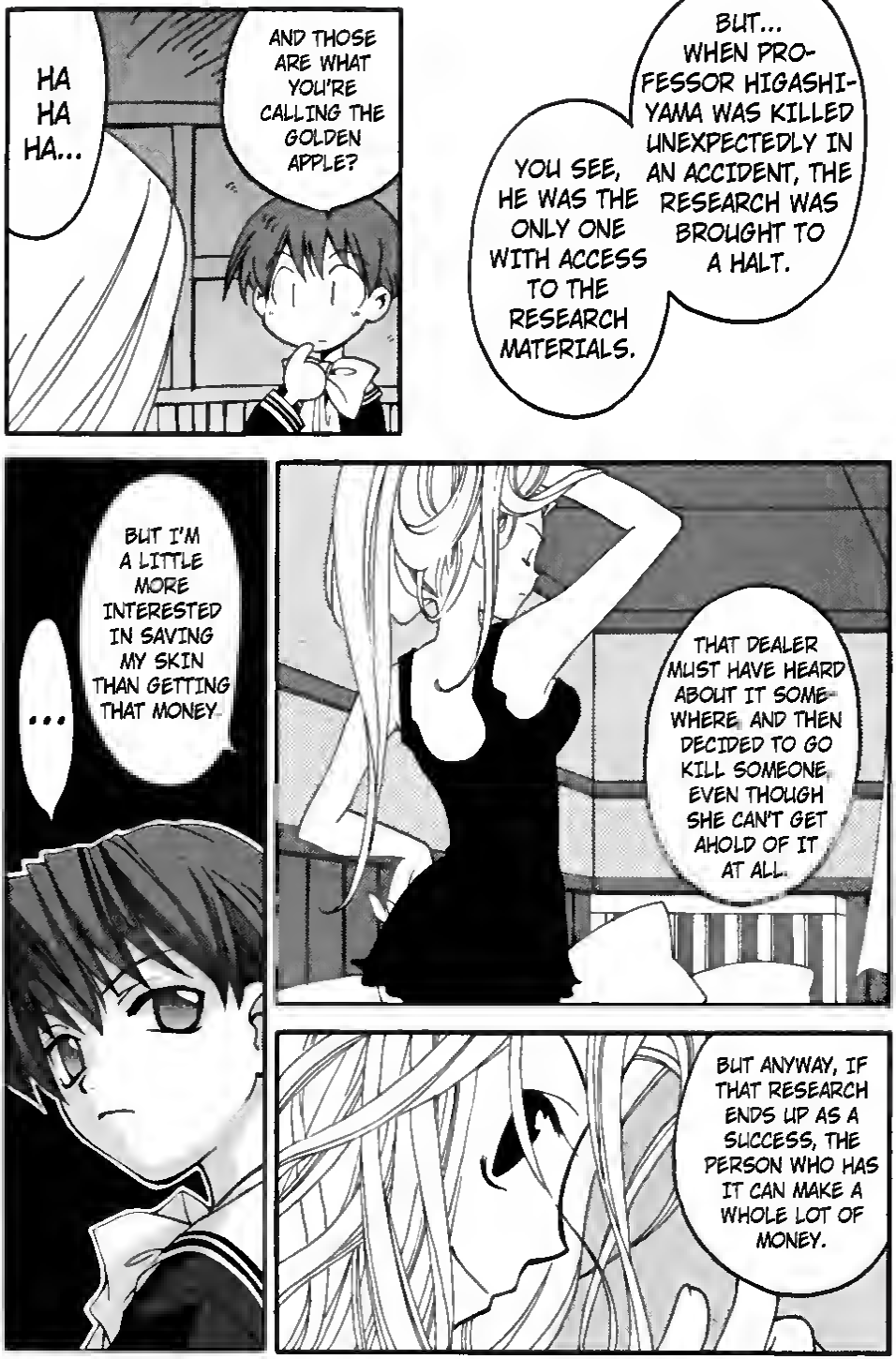



YOUNG MEN ARE NOT TO ENTER A LADY'S BEDROOM!
LUCKY
TURN

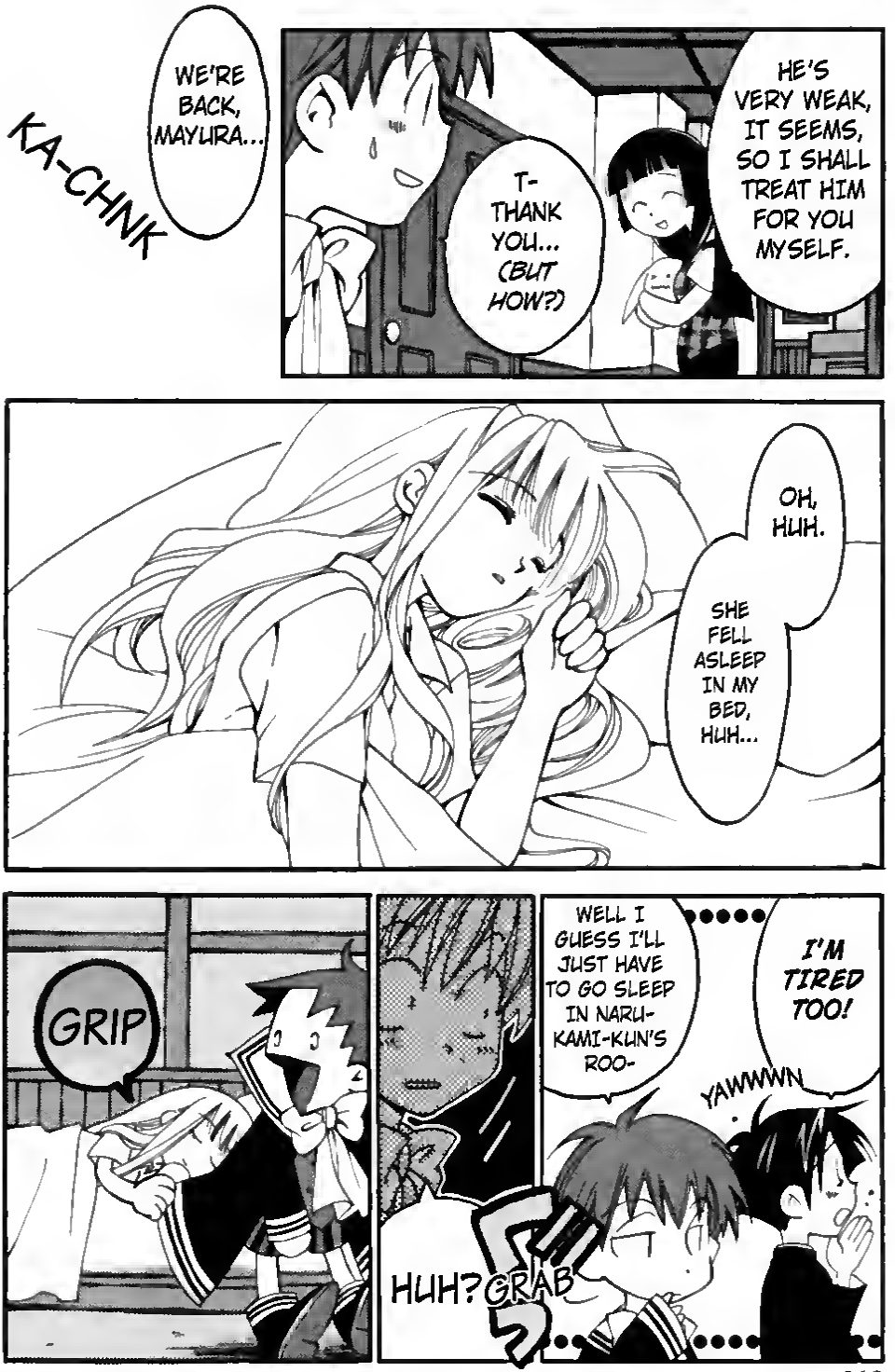

OH MY, LOKI-KUN, WASN'T IT? ARE YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR INTERROGATION, THEN?

OH... UM, WELL, I GUESS I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT A PRETTY LADY LIKE YOU IS DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, TANAKA-SAN!
HEE HEE
GRRRR
BOIINNNG
EN CHAN TING !!
WELL THEN? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK ME, LITTLE BOY?
YOU JUST STAND GUARD QUIETLY OUT THERE, OKAY, NARUKAMI-KUN—
.....

PROFES-SOR HIGASHI-YAMA!?
WE ALL WENT TO COLLEGE TO-GETHER, BACK IN THE DAY, AND WE WORKED ON A RESEARCH TEAM FOR A PARTICULAR SORT OF STUDY UNDER PROFES-SOR HIGASHI-YAMA.
IT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT'S BEEN STUDIED IN MEDICINE SINCE THE BEGINNING... BUT STILL A REVOLUTIONARY FIELD OF STUDY.
...WELL, THE SON OF THE LATE PROFESSOR HIGASHIYAMA TOLD US HE HAD A RELIC FOR ONE OF US TO WIN, THE GOLDEN APPLE.

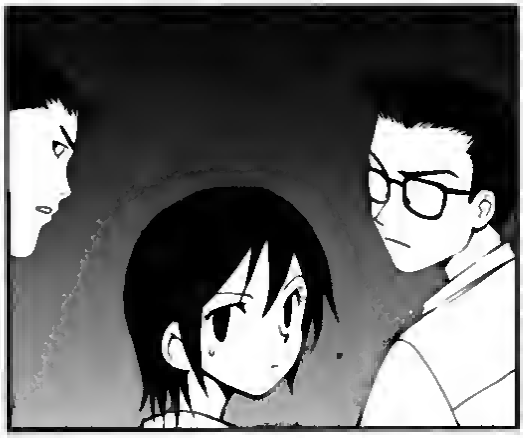

HA HA HA...
AND THOSE ARE WHAT YOU'RE CALLING THE GOLDEN APPLE?
BUT... WHEN PROFESSOR HIGASHIYAMA WAS KILLED UNEXPECTEDLY IN AN ACCIDENT, THE RESEARCH WAS BROUGHT TO A HALT.
YOU SEE, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH ACCESS TO THE RESEARCH MATERIALS.
THAT DEALER MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT SOMEWHERE, AND THEN DECIDED TO GO KILL SOMEONE, EVEN THOUGH SHE CAN'T GET AHOLD OF IT AT ALL.
BUT ANYWAY, IF THAT RESEARCH ENDS UP AS A SUCCESS, THE PERSON WHO HAS IT CAN MAKE A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY.
...
BUT I'M A LITTLE MORE INTERESTED IN SAVING MY SKIN THAN GETTING THAT MONEY.

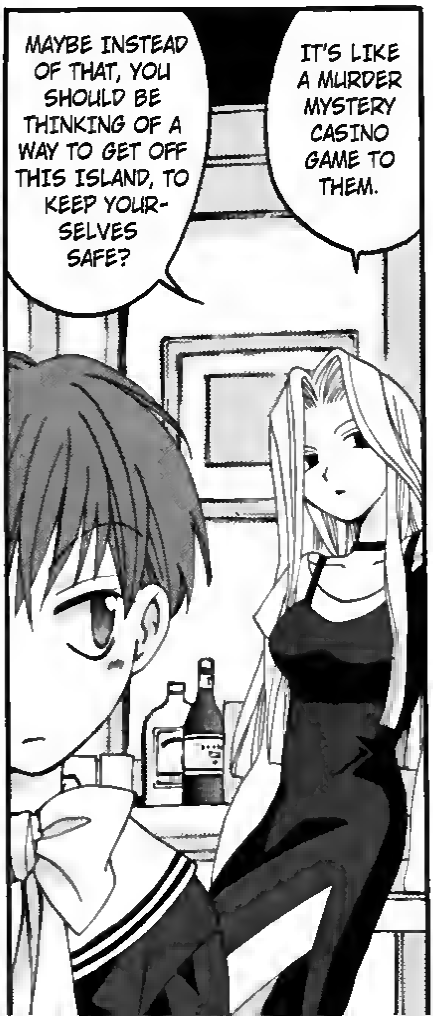
IS THIS YOURS, LOKI-SAMA...?
WOKI-SHAMA...
KA CHN
HOW'D IT GO, LOKI?
THANKS FOR WAITING, NARUKAMI-KUN.
PARDON ME...
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?
OH, WELL, IT WAS VERY STIM-ULATING~
??
MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR
PUNYA PUNYAO!!!
AHHH!!! ETCHAAN~!!!
BWB
BWB BWB
I MISHED YOU...
YOU CAME HERE ALL BY YOUR-SELF? WHAT A SMART BOY.
PRETTY, BADASS PUNYA-THING!
HE WASHED UP ON THE BEACH.
CROSSING AN OCEAN TO MEET ITS MAS-TER—A MOVING TALE OF LOVE AND EMOTION!!
FWSH FSHHH

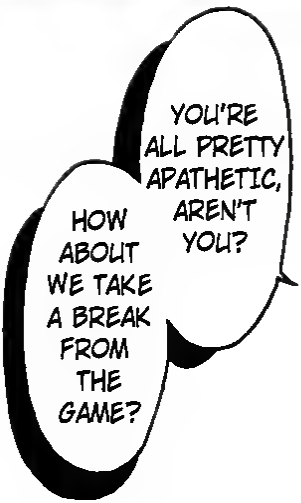

KA-CHNK
WE'RE BACK, MAYURA...
T-THANK YOU... (BUT HOW?)
HE'S VERY WEAK, IT SEEMS, SO I SHALL TREAT HIM FOR YOU MYSELF.
OH, HUH.
SHE FELL ASLEEP IN MY BED, HUH...
GRIP
HUH?
GRAB
WELL I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO SLEEP IN NARU-KAMI-KUN'S ROO-
I'M TIRED TOO!
YAWWWN

EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE DIED YESTERDAY, THE CASINO IS STILL PRETTY BUSY...

FEWER COMPETITORS NOW, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE ALL GOTTEN KIND OF FIRED UP.
WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH THESE PEOPLE!




IT'S LIKE A MURDER MYSTERY CASINO GAME TO THEM.
MAYBE INSTEAD OF THAT, YOU SHOULD BE THINKING OF A WAY TO GET OFF THIS ISLAND, TO KEEP YOURSELVES SAFE?


YOU'RE ALL PRETTY APATHETIC, AREN'T YOU?
HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A BREAK FROM THE GAME?

KAZUMI HIGA-SHI-YAMA!!
AH, THERE HE IS! HEM!!
YEAH RIGHT, WE ALREADY CAME ALL THIS WAY, WE'RE NOT GOING HOME EMPTY HANDED.
TANAKA'S JUST TALKING NONSENSE...
WELL, I REALLY JUST WANT TO PLAY A LITTLE ONE-ON-ONE GAME, EH LOKI?
COULD EVERYONE CLEAR OUT OF HERE?
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL REALLY CLOSE IT DOWN
WELL NOW.
I HAVE TO LEAVE, TOO?
NARUKAMI-KUN, KEEP AN EYE ON MAYURA, OKAY?
TCH!

?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW I BROUGHT HER UNDER MY CONTROL?
SHE STARTED TO FIGURE THINGS OUT, YOU KNOW.

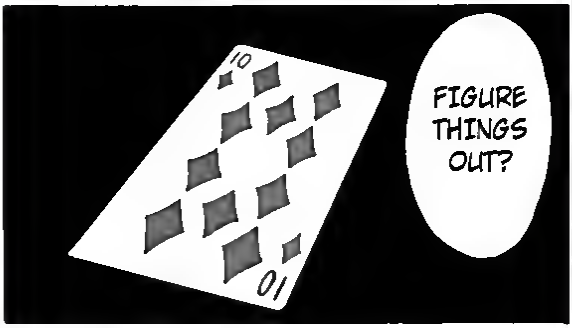
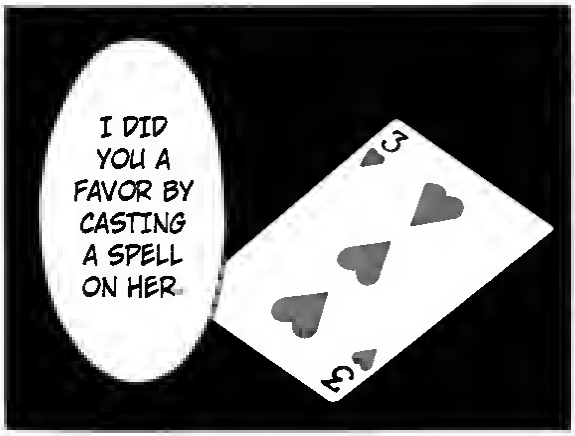


FIGURE THINGS OUT?


I DID YOU A FAVOR BY CASTING A SPELL ON HER.

I'LL PLAY A GAME OF BLACKJACK WITH YOU THEN.
IF I WIN, YOU HAVE TO RETURN MAYURA TO NORMAL.

NOW THEN, LOKI. GIVE IT BACK.
MY RIGHT EYE, WHICH YOU HAVE STOLEN FROM ME.
AT THAT MOMENT, SHE STARTED TO THINK ABOUT HOW STRANGE YOU ARE.
ALL I DID WAS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT.
....
AH-
AHAHA!! BLACKJACK! I'VE WON.

YOU HAVE IT, DON'T YOU? MY EYE-BALL.
I HAVE WON THIS GAME.
HMPH. I HAVE A FINAL WEAPON IN THIS FIGHT, YOU KNOW...
SORRY, KAZUMI HIGASHI-YAMA...
OUR GAME OF BLACK-JACK IS NOW OVER.
BANG!
LOKI, COME QUICK! ANOTHER PERSON HAS BEEN MURDERED!
!

TANAKA-SAN...

YOU DON'T THINK DAIDOUJI COULD REALLY BE THE KILLER?

I ONLY LET HER OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR A MINUTE AND DAI-DOUJI DISAP-PEARED.
I WAS LOOKING FOR HER WHEN I CAME TO THIS ROOM, AND...

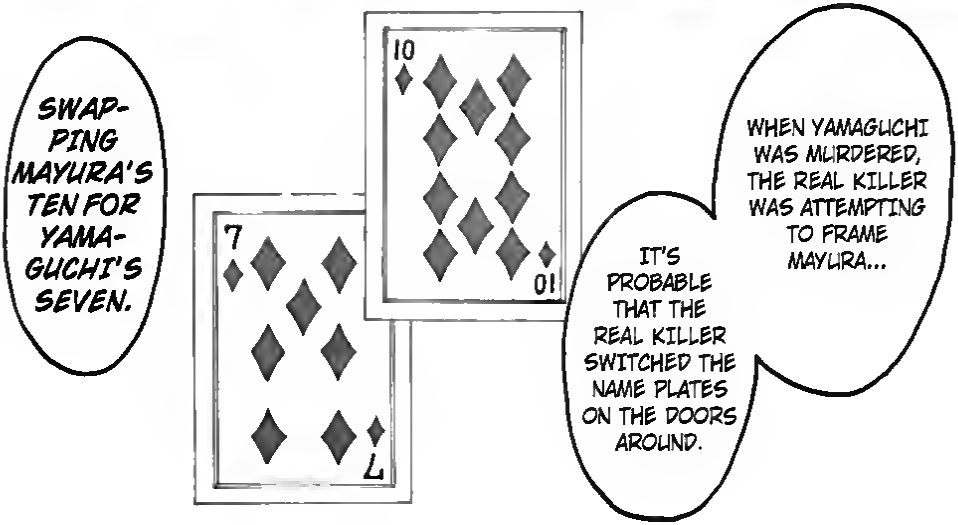
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE, NARUKAMI-KUN?
...NO
I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR HER AGAIN.

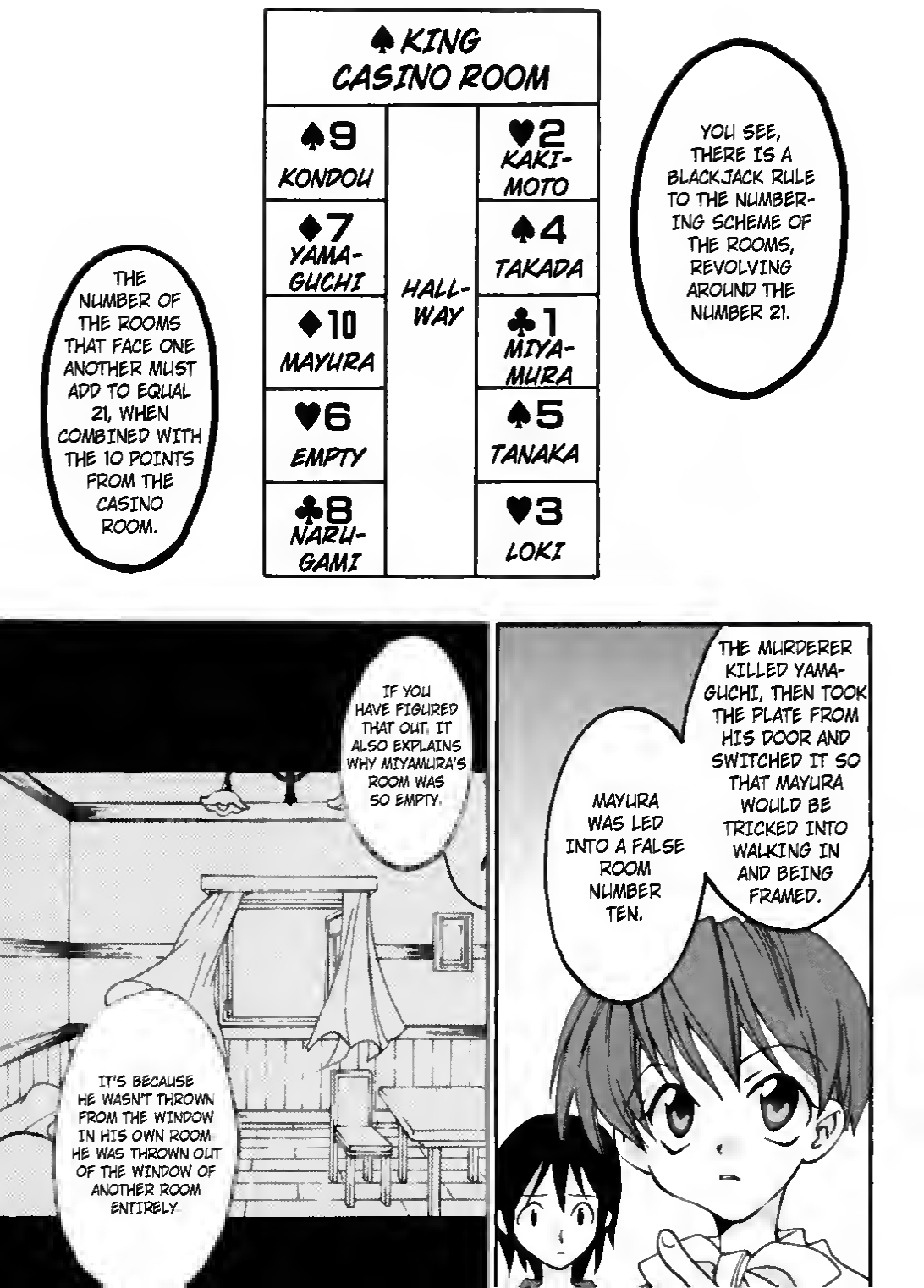
SOME-
BODY
ELSE
HAS
BEEN
KILLED?

HMM..
I SEE...

YAMAGUCHI, MYSELF, AND MIYAMURA WERE ALL TARGETED BECAUSE WE WERE THE POINT LEADERS, AS WELL.
I DON'T THINK THAT MAYURA IS THE KILLER. SHE'S JUST A BLACKJACK DEALER, SO SHE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO USE THE GOLDEN APPLE.

HEY, TAKADA-SAN. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MY CURRENT THEORY?
HUH?


SWAP-
PING
MAYURA'S
TEN FOR
YAMA-
GUCHI'S
SEVEN.
10
01
7
7
IT'S
PROBABLE
THAT THE
REAL KILLER
SWITCHED THE
NAME PLATES
ON THE DOORS
AROUND.
WHEN YAMAGUCHI
WAS MURDERED,
THE REAL KILLER
WAS ATTEMPTING
TO FRAME
MAYURA...


♠KING CASINO ROOM
♠9 KONDOU
♦7 YAMA-GUCHI
♦10 MAYURA
♥6 EMPTY
♣8 NARU-GAMI
HALL-WAY
♥2 KAKI-MOTO
♠4 TAKADA
♣1 MIYA-MURA
♠5 TANAKA
♥3 LOKI
THE NUMBER OF THE ROOMS THAT FACE ONE ANOTHER MUST ADD TO EQUAL 21, WHEN COMBINED WITH THE 10 POINTS FROM THE CASINO ROOM.
YOU SEE, THERE IS A BLACKJACK RULE TO THE NUMBER-ING SCHEME OF THE ROOMS, REVOLVING AROUND THE NUMBER 21.
IF YOU HAVE FIGURED THAT OUT, IT ALSO EXPLAINS WHY MIYAMURA'S ROOM WAS SO EMPTY.
IT'S BECAUSE HE WASN'T THROWN FROM THE WINDOW IN HIS OWN ROOM. HE WAS THROWN OUT OF THE WINDOW OF ANOTHER ROOM ENTIRELY.
THE MURDERER KILLED YAMA-GUCHI, THEN TOOK THE PLATE FROM HIS DOOR AND SWITCHED IT SO THAT MAYURA WOULD BE TRICKED INTO WALKING IN AND BEING FRAMED.
MAYURA WAS LED INTO A FALSE ROOM NUMBER TEN.

KAKI-MOTO
TAKADA
MIYA-MURA (DEAD)
TANAKA (DEAD)
LOKI
CLIFFS
THE MURDERER CHANGED THE PLATES AROUND AND LED THE VICTIM TO THEIR OWN ROOM, THEN AMBUSHING AND MURDERING THEM, THEN THROWING THE BODY OUT THE WINDOW.
THEREFORE, THE KILLER HAS TO BE STAYING ON THE CLIFF SIDE OF THE BUILDING...
SO THEN... KAKIMOTO-SAN IS THE KILLER...?
WHATEVER SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE THERE WERE, MAY EVEN NOW BE LEFT IN THE MURDERERS ROOM, I BELIEVE.
AFTER THAT, THE MURDERER RETURNED THE PLATES TO THEIR FORMER POSI-TIONS.
NO, TAKADA-SAN.
YOU ARE THE KILLER.

SHE WOULD NOT HAVE INVITED A MAN INTO HER ROOM WHILE WEARING THAT OUTFIT, WOULD SHE? NOT NORMALLY.
THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT TANAKA-SAN HAD INVITED ANOTHER WOMAN INTO HER ROOM/
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, KID!?
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, STAY OUT OF MY ROOM!!
IF THE CASINO GAME WAS HALTED, YOU COULD NO LONGER WIN THE APPLE THAT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING SO HARD FOR.
TANAKA-SAN WAS MURDERED BECAUSE HER DECISION TO QUIT THE GAME WAS SHAKING EVERYONE'S RESOLVE.
YOU KNOW, THE APPLE OFTEN HAS A MOTIF OF IMMORTALITY, IN MYTHOLOGY...
AHH, YES, YOU SEE. THIS IS DEFINITELY THE CRIME SCENE.

THE GOLDEN APPLE WAS RESEARCH ABOUT IMMORTALITY WASN'T IT?
IS THAT WHY YOU WANTED THE RESEARCH SO VERY BADLY, TAKADA-SAN?
OH, IS LOKI IN HERE NOW?
WHERE IS SHE..
CAN'T FIND HER...
I HAVE... AN INCURABLE ILLNESS INSIDE OF ME!!
I WON'T LET YOU STOP ME. I'LL KILL YOU!!
WHAT THE- THE DOOR WON'T OPEN!?
KATA
KATA
!

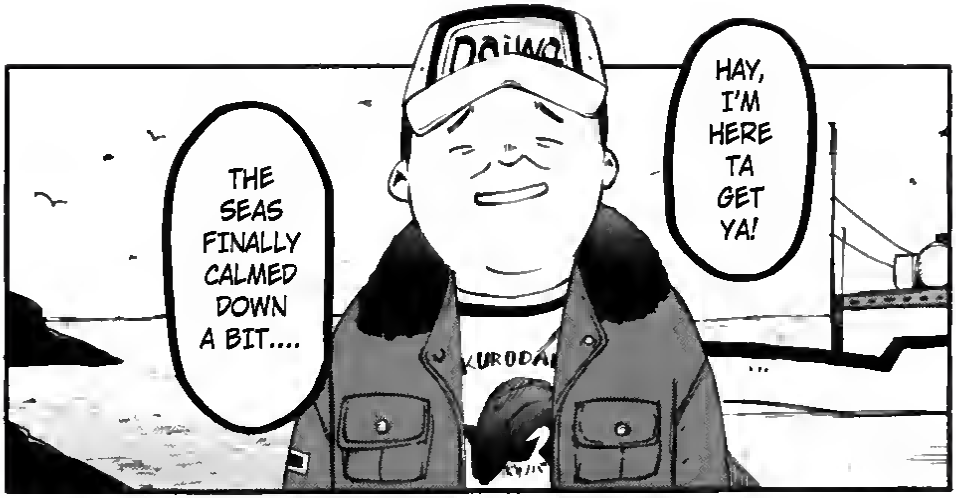
HAVE I BEEN TRAPPED !?
WHAT IS THIS!? I CAN'T MOVE!?!
ZZZSH
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU...
A NORN...?

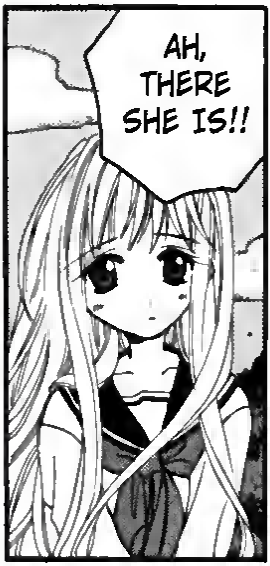
THUD
YOU'VE BETRAYED ME, NORN...!

...IT DOESN'T MATTER. I WILL GIVE YOU THE LAST PROPHECY MYSELF.
AH!
ODIN-SAMA HAS ORDERED YOU TO BE KILLED!
WH...
HE SAYS YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
AND HE USED TO FAVOR YOU SO WELL! HE'S ABANDONED YOU, LOKI! AND YOU DESERVE IT!!
....
GRIND
I CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF JUST KILLING YOU...
I WILL GOUGE YOUR EYE OUT AS YOU DID MINE!!

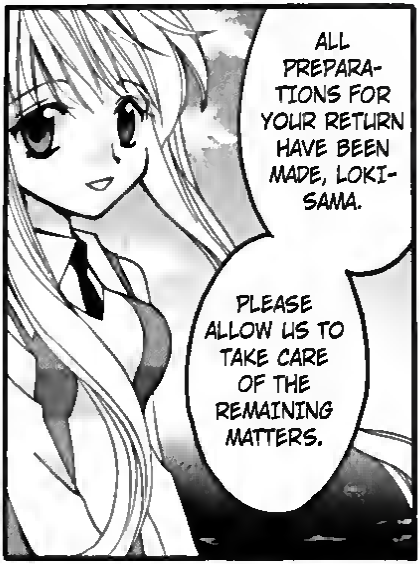
..NH
NHA HA HA HA HA HA
I HAVE SOMETHING GREAT TO TELL YOU, HEIMDALL.
ODIN IS THE ONE WHO HAS YOUR EYE. HE ASKED ME TO TAKE IT FROM YOU AND BRING IT TO HIM...
WH-
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, LOKI!?
YOU, TOO, ARE JUST BEING USED!

GRAB
I HAVEN'T LOST YET, LOKI.
TP
BANG!
IT'S OPEN !!
SHUT UP...
FWOOSH!
ODIN IS TRYING TO...
LOKI!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
...

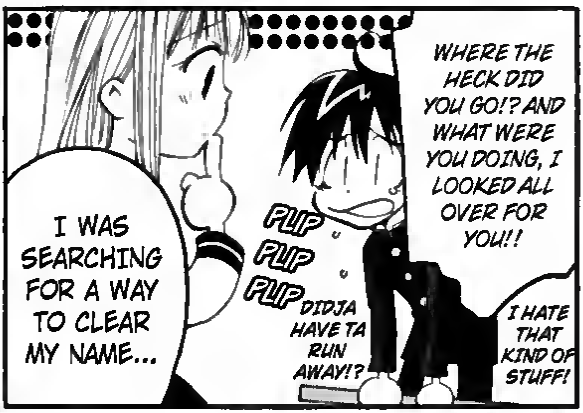

THE SEAS FINALLY CALMED DOWN A BIT....
HAY, I'M HERE TA GET YA!


AH, THERE SHE IS!!

HMMM... WHERE IS MAYURA?


ALL PREPARA-TIONS FOR YOUR RETURN HAVE BEEN MADE, LOKI-SAMA.
PLEASE ALLOW US TO TAKE CARE OF THE REMAINING MATTERS.

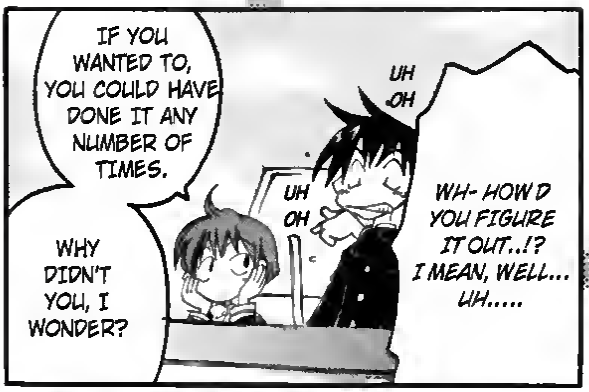
!

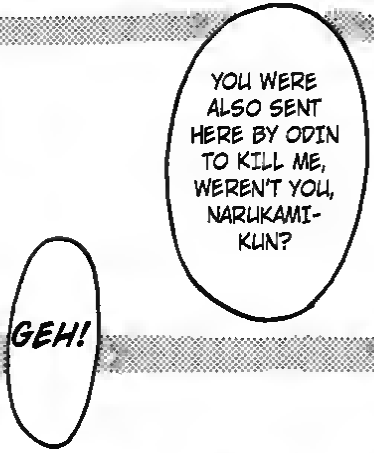

I WAS SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO CLEAR MY NAME...
PUP PUP PUP DIDJA HAVE TA RUN AWAY!?
WHERE THE HECK DID YOU GO!? AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING, I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!!
I HATE THAT KIND OF STUFF!

YANK
HEIMDALL CAST HIS MAGIC ON HER WITH A KISS, SO I GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...
WHAT DO WE DO, LOKI?
MAYBE IT'S HER MYSTERY FAN'S INSTINCT? IT COULD BE ON THE VERGE OF RETURNING...
MAYBE JUST ONE MORE LITTLE PUSH...
.....
MWAH
DUNN...

YEP... MAYURA'S FULLY BACK NOW...
WHIRL
WHIRL
OH GOSH! WHERE AM I!? HOW MYSTEEER-IOUS~~~

AAAH!! WHAT IS GOING ON!?
SLAP!

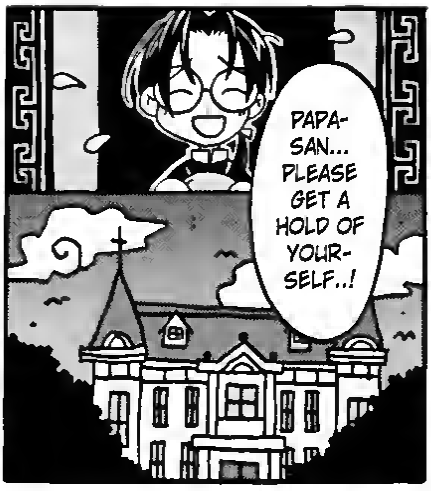

IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU COULD HAVE DONE IT ANY NUMBER OF TIMES.
WHY DIDN'T YOU, I WONDER?
UH OH
UH OH
WH- HOW'D YOU FIGURE IT OUT..!? I MEAN, WELL... UH.....


YOU WERE ALSO SENT HERE BY ODIN TO KILL ME, WEREN'T YOU, NARUKAMI-KUN?
GEH!

...WELL, HOW DO I PUT THIS...
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR SUCH A LONG TIME....

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU FOR A WHILE NOW...
HM?
....
WHY IS IT THAT I'VE SEEN SO MANY STRANGE THINGS SINCE BECOMING INVOLVED WITH YOU?
HEY, HEY, LOKI-KUN, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU!
MMM.... OH, THAT. THERE ARE PERSONIFI-CATIONS OF DARKNESS THAT INVADE PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
I AM ABLE TO PURIFY THAT "EVIL," YOU SEE.
PURI-FY... PAPA DOES THE SAME THING!!
PLAP

.....
.....
.....
.....
I TOLD YOU, LOKI-SAMA WILL ABSOLUTELY RETURN WITH MAYURA-SAN SOON...
.....
.....


PAPA-SAN... PLEASE GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF..!

DROP
I'M HOME, PAPA...
WELCOME HOME, LOKI-SAMA~
MAYURA IS SO CUTE AND SWEET THAT SHE HAS TO HAVE GOTTEN KIDNAPPED BY SOME TERRIBLE PERSON AND SHE'S WRAPPED UP IN SOME TERRIBLE INCIDENT AND SHE'S THINKING ABOUT HER PAPA AND CRYIN POOR MAYURA,
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
まゆらぁぁぁ
MAYURAAAAAAA
OH MY? I JUST REMEMBERED. I SENT A SHIKIGAMI ALONG AFTER YOU, LOKI-SAMA....
AH
OH NO, I FORGOT ABOUT HIM!!
NO, NOT AT ALL, IT WAS MY PLEASURE!
SMIIIIIILE
IT'S FINE!
PLUS I SHOULD SAY SORRY FOR GETTING YOUR DAUGHTER INVOLVED!
....
....
JUST THIS ONCE, YOU HAVE MY THANKS...
WEH~ PAPA, I'M SORRYY!

HEY, PAPA!
DID YOU KNOW THAT LOKI-KUN IS A PURIFYING DETECTIVE?
PURIFYING DETECTIVE?
YUP!
SINCE HE DOES WHAT YOU DO, BUT IS A DETECTIVE, TOO, I WONDER IF HE'S ON A HIGHER LEVEL?
A HIGHER LEVEL, BUT... I SERVE GOD, AND MY POWER IS HOLY...
AM A GOD!
AND I....

THE MYSTICAL DETECTIVE LOKI VOLUME 4: END

starring
LOKI
MAYURA DAIDOJI
MIDGARDSORMR AS RYUSUKE YAMINO
THOR AS NARUGAMI
HEIMDALL AS KAZUMI HIGASHIYAMA
FREYA AS REIYA OSHIMA
KOTARO KAKINOUCHI
MISAO DAIDOJI
MASUMI NIIYAMA
VERDANDI , SKULD , URD
AND……MORE !
THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE LOKI
……SEE YOU NEXT!